

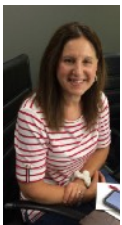
WE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

Volume 28, No. 2

October 2021

PROGRAM by Cris Beuger, Program Chair



October Program: Topic: "Make Government Work For You: Senior Citizens"

Time: Tuesday, October 26, 2021, 7:00 pm

Participation of active, informed citizens is a bedrock principle of our democracy and it has been a foundational principle of the League of Women Voters from its origins in 1920. Recent events have underlined the difficulties of maintaining the goal of an *active, informed citizenry* that is essential for a truly representative democracy. The mission of the League of Women Voters is "**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**" In alignment with that mission, this interactive workshop will explore strategies for participation of all citizens in the political process. Through graphics and interaction with participants of any age, it emphasizes the importance of involvement at every level. The workshop contains concrete suggestions for action and advocacy based on the experiences of presenters in community and school settings. The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh is committed to the presentation of nonpartisan, reliable information in order to explore civic engagement and the commitment to democratic principles.

November Program: Topic: "What's Happening in Our Schools: A Conversation with Dr. Gerald Zahorchak, former Pennsylvania Secretary of Education"

Time: Nov 9, 2021, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

This program provides a unique opportunity for League members to be informed on a number of current education issues, including fair funding, charter/cyber schools, covid safety and critical race theory.

Dr. Zahorchak served as the state Secretary of Education from 2006 to 2010. In this role, he was responsible for the education of nearly two million school children across the Commonwealth. He is a national education leader focusing on Common-Core Standards and implementing Standards-Based Education to improve student achievement. Dr. Zahorchak is a frequent speaker at national educational conferences, symposia and other forums and is a frequent guest on PA public television and radio stations.

Dear League Friends—it is with great sadness that I report news of the passing of Jean Burke, who served as LWVGP President from 1998 to 2002. Jean had an infectious laugh and can-do spirit that made her a natural leader and great person to work with. She was a valuable board member for several years and was especially helpful as we launched the consolidated LWV of Greater Pittsburgh. She and her husband Jon and three children (including twins) lived in the North Hills until they moved to Cornelius, NC outside of Charlotte. After Jon retired, they did a lot of traveling (I have pictures of Jean on a camel in Egypt), frequently to England where their son and daughter-in-law lived. Jean died of cancer about a year ago, but the family waited until now for a memorial service, thinking Covid would be controlled by now. If you would like to send Jon a note, Jon's address is 18024 Mulligan Rd, Cornelius, NC 28031.

Nancy Naragon

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

APPLE CIDER AND ELECTIONS



Autumn is here and along with apple cider, fall festivals and Halloween it's bringing Election Season! And LWVPGH members are very busy registering voters, providing information to thousands of people, and

carefully watching what's happening in Harrisburg and Washington with respect to redistricting and voting legislation.

In an effort to stay on top of all these issues and to provide local Leagues with more information and suggestions, the state League has ramped up its outreach to local Leagues. It's so much easier to do this via virtual meetings and it means we all get information faster and in more detail. We found out that some Leagues do postcard outreach to remind voters of upcoming elections, that many of us have difficulty scheduling candidate forums, that some Leagues do regular cable-news shows about voter issues, that some have done a great job recruiting high school students as members, and on and on. We've also shared ideas about what we're doing here in Greater Pittsburgh. We found out that our website is the envy of many local Leagues who've utilized lots of our infographics and information. Kudos to Ruth Quint, Amy Kleissas and the rest of the team for the terrific information on our website.

The other really important outreach has been in the area of Advocacy. There are a number of election and voting issues that are critical right now – the potential Arizona-type audit in PA, redistricting where hearings are underway, and a couple of proposed election law changes. League members can be strong advocates on these issues by writing Letters to the Editor, by calling local Representatives and Senators to express your opinions, and by talking to friends and neighbors about the issues. Even if job and/or family responsibilities preclude some of us from volunteering in many League activities, most of us would be able to find a few minutes to craft a Letter to the Editor. I hope a few of you will consider this. Guidance for how to write a strong LTE is available on the state website [here](#).

There are a number of upcoming local events in addition to our terrific monthly LWVPGH meetings. Two events on the same day are worth mentioning. They're both on Saturday, October 2. The first is the Women's March starting at noon at the County Courthouse in support of reproductive rights. League members are encouraged to participate if they wish and several state board members will be rallying in various part of the state. In addition, there's also an interactive street fair from 1 to 3 PM on the same day. It will be held in Bakery Square. It's called "Chase the Erase" and will feature performers from Chatham University. It's a rally in support of fair redistricting. As we get additional information about each event, it will appear on our website.

October is going to be a busy month, as we all get ready to cast our ballots. Make sure friends and neighbors are registered; apply for mail-in ballots; go to our website and [Vote411.org](#) for information about candidates. If you are able, please consider signing up to be a poll worker on Election Day, November 2. As of several days ago, Allegheny County was in need of an additional 2300 people to staff the polls. You can sign up [here](#). I can't think of a better way to support democracy!

Maureen Grosheider

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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.

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Greater Pittsburgh	412-261-4284	lwvpgh.org	
Pennsylvania	717-234-1576 Ext 0	palwv.org	
National	202-429-1965	lwv.org	
Facebook	www.facebook.com	Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh	

OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES by Nancy Naragon

Allegheny County's Emergency Services are some of the best-kept secrets in the county! They stand out as one of the best in the country and frequently help train other departments in different states about best practices for providing public health and safety services to citizens.

As a result of a federal program in 1986, (Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act) a Local Emergency Planning Committee was established in the county and enthusiastically supported by then-Commissioner Tom Foerster. This committee meets regularly to review, comment, and question the emergency response plans for all facilities located within the county that deal with hazardous materials and impact public health and safety. Most committee members are involved in some way with the many businesses and agencies and other organizations that are directly involved in providing safety and emergency services or use hazardous materials. By law, the committee must also include some members of the general public who are not directly involved in providing these services—which is why the League of Women Voters has had a member on this LEPC since the beginning in 1987. That member has been me, Nancy Naragon, for now 34 years, and I have certainly learned a lot from these meetings and met a lot of very special people who are committed to providing the best in emergency services for Allegheny County.

Continued next page

League Meeting Structure

Board Meetings

- ✓ **Second Monday** of the month..
Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., currently by Zoom.

Local Area Unit Meetings

- ✓ **Pittsburgh Central:** Currently not meeting. Contact Martha Raak at 412-477-7572 or marbiker1@gmail.com
- ✓ **North Hills:** Currently not meeting. Contact Nancy Mott at 412-779-3089 or namott001@gmail.com
- ✓ **South Hills:** Currently not meeting. Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or mamula159@hotmail.com

Other Ongoing Meetings

- ✓ **Education Committee**
4th Wednesday by Zoom.
Chair is Kathy Nagle, education@lwvpgh.org or 1-814-241-8149
- ✓ **Voter Service Committee**
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 12:30 pm. by Zoom. Additional meetings occasionally added as needed. Contact Judy Clack at 512-731-0280 voterservice@lwvpgh.org
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**
Currently not meeting. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or development@lwvpgh.org
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**
3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Meeting place determined each month, see calendar. Contact Joan Cucinotta, 412-708-2335 or joancucinotta@gmail.com

This column will be updated as in-person meetings become possible or as changes in League programming are made.

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER CALENDAR

October

5 Tue	Voter Service Committee meeting, 12:30-2:30 pm on Zoom
11 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 pm
11 Mon	Candidate Forum for Mayor of Pittsburgh, 7:00 pm, on Casa San Jose's Facebook page
15 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, 10:30 am, Anderson Shelter, weather permitting
18 Mon	Deadline to register to vote
18 Mon	Advocacy Committee meeting, 11 am, on Zoom
18 Mon	Braver Angels Workshops, 7:00-9:00 pm
19 Tue	Voter Service Committee meeting, 12:30-2:30 pm on Zoom
19 Tue	Candidate Forum for Magistrate 05-02-04, on LWVPGH Facebook page
21 Thur	Candidate Forum for Magistrate 05-02-19, on LWVPGH Facebook page
26 Tue	Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot
26 Tue	LWVPGH General Meeting, 7-8:30 pm , Citizen participation
27 Wed	Education Committee, 7:00 pm on Zoom

November

2 Tue	Election Day. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, Absentee ballots must be received by 5 pm.
8 Mon	Board meeting by Zoom, 12:30 pm
9 Tue	Voter Service Committee meeting, 12:30-2:30 pm on Zoom
9 Tue	LWVPGH General Meeting, 7-8:30 pm: Education issues
16 Tue & 17 Wed	Straight Scoop on Shale Conference, noon-4:00 pm, on Zoom

Emergency Services, Continued from previous page

The LEPC would like to have another person, and an alternate, from the League so that I can retire, although I may still attend meetings. Currently the LEPC has a Zoom meeting on a bi-monthly basis, and subcommittee meetings usually run either before or after the main meeting. When they again meet in person, it would be at their facility near the airport on Hookstown Grade Road in Coraopolis and, if tradition continues, will include a free catered lunch. The county-wide 911 center is also housed in this location. Your job essentially is to be a liaison between the county emergency services and the public, and to ask questions that the public might want to know. Writing an occasional report for the *Voter* would be great, too. If you think you might like to assume this role, email me or give me a call and I can answer your questions: 412-366-2446, development@lwvpgh.org.

LWV The Straight Scoop on Shale

A Project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund

Ninth Annual Shale & Public Health Conference

Tuesday November 16, 2021
&
Wednesday, November 17, 2021
from noon to 4:00 p.m. EST

This is an online **ZOOM conference**. Login details will be provided closer to the event to all registrants.

The conference is presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.

The conference is free, but you need to register!

Register : www.ShalePALWV.org

Featuring new research presented by national experts on shale and public health impacts, and practical applications.

Tuesday, November 16th:

Session 1 - New Health Research

Session 2 - Research & Regulatory Policy

Wednesday, November 17th:

Session 3 - Emerging and Urgent

Session 4 - Community Voices

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
Straight Scoop on Shale * 1-800-617-4253 * shalemarcella@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair



Candidate Forums

Three forums have been scheduled to date. We are attempting to arrange many others and will announce them in the **Blast**.

Mon. Oct. 11, 7:00 pm, Pittsburgh Mayor, live on Facebook on Casa San Jose's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/casasanjosepgh/>) and later on ours (<http://www.facebook.com/lwvpgh>).

Tues. Oct. 19, 8 pm, "Fox Chapel Area" magistrate, 05-02-04, serving Aspinwall, Blawnox, Fox Chapel, Indiana, O'Hara, and Sharpsburg. Premiere on (<http://www.facebook.com/lwvpgh>). It will also be archived on the LWVPGH Candidate Forums page (<https://lwvpgh.org/forums>) and our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/lwvpgh>).

Thurs. Oct. 21, 8 pm, Mt. Lebanon/Dormont magistrate, 05-02-19. Premiere on (<http://www.facebook.com/lwvpgh>). It will also be archived on the LWVPGH Candidate Forums page (<https://lwvpgh.org/forums>) and our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/lwvpgh>).

Helpful Election links from Allegheny Votes

Subscribe to Allegheny Votes here: <https://bit.ly/AC-ElectionsNLSignUp>.

Registration Links:

[Register to Vote](#) (Deadline October 18)

[Check Your Voter Registration](#)

[Update Your Voter Registration](#) (Deadline October 18)

Mail-in and Absentee Ballot Links:

[Apply](#) (Deadline October 26)

[Track Your Ballot](#) Ballot must be received by November 2 by 8 PM.

[Confirm Your Ballot Was Received](#)

Voting in Person Links:

[Verify Your Polling Place](#) Polls Are Open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

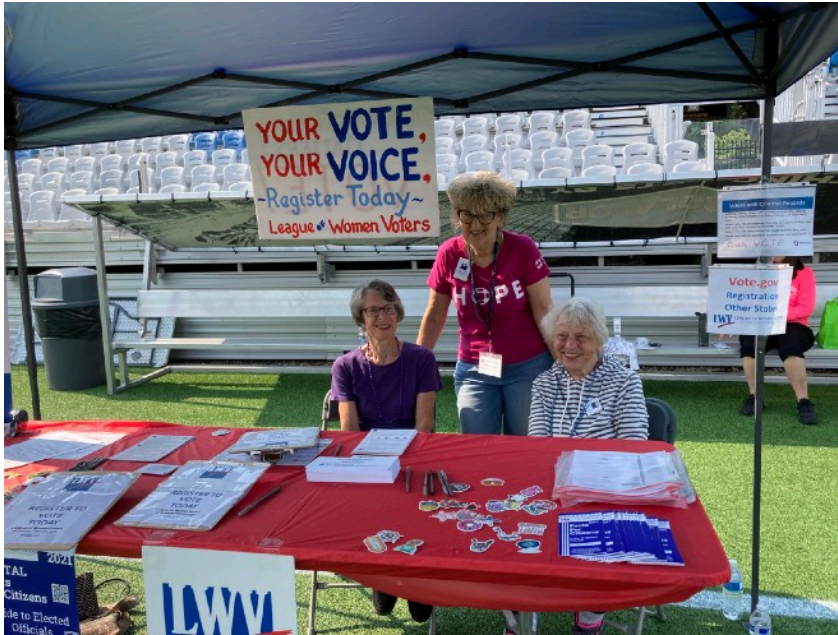
Voter Service Committee Meetings

Tues. Oct. 5, 12:30 – 2:30 pm on Zoom, Voter Service Committee Meeting. New election materials on our website, candidate forum planning, voter outreach by committees. Learn what's being planned, add your suggestions, and volunteer. All members are invited. Next meetings on **October 19, 12:30 pm** and **Nov. 9, 12:30 pm**. Zoom invitations on Member Hub. Email Judy Clack to receive the Agenda and Zoom Invitation: voterservice@lwvpgh.org.



Cynthia Cominsky and Lucine Folgueras at Carnegie Mellon University's Undergraduate Volunteer Fair on September 3. Carol Caroselli, Judy Clack, and Mary Ann LeDonne were walking around with registration clipboards.

MORE VOTER SERVICE PHOTOS



The Out of Darkness Walk provides support to those who have a relation to suicide. Although our voter registration outreach must be very subdued, Becky Studer, Amy Kleissas and Phyllis Dreyfuss had many good voter education conversations with attendees.

Ruth Quint and Ellie Siegal registered participants at the annual Recovery Walk on September 11, along with Judy Clack. This walk supports those recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. In Pennsylvania, formerly incarcerated individuals may register to vote since they have served their sentence.



Cynthia Cominsky and Peggy Schmiedecke registered students at LaRoche University. Most were Pennsylvania residents who also needed to complete a mail-in ballot application to be sent to their campus address.

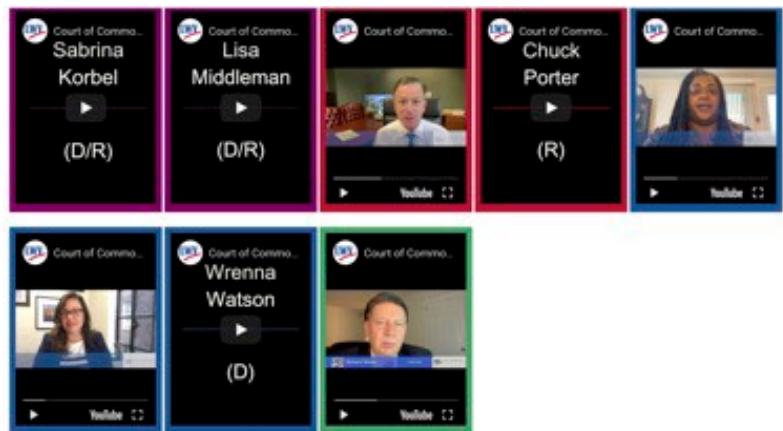
ELECTION INFORMATION ON THE WEBSITE by Ruth Quint



The website is gearing up with voter information for the November 2 election. From now through Election Day, the homepage will highlight election information with dates and deadlines, and links to Vote411 and our own election-related pages. A printable “Ready to Vote” flyer is available on the homepage, or at this link: <http://www.lwvpgh.org/docs.ashx?id=866832>.

The **Common Pleas Video Gallery**, lwvpgh.org/common-pleas has been updated for the general election, this time with “only” 18 candidates running for 10 seats. The video gallery allows you to “speed-date” the candidates you’re curious about, by viewing 3-minute videos on their views of cash bail and restorative justice.

In early October, a printable Vote411 “mini-guide” will be available on the Video Gallery page, containing the Vote411 information for just the Common Pleas race.



The **Candidate Forums** page, lwvpgh.org/forums, will again host videos of recorded local forums, along with a calendar of upcoming events, and a live form where the public can submit forum questions right on the webpage. The page already has one fall forum video posted -- The Pennsylvania Appellate Courts Forum, hosted by Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, and co-sponsored by LWVPA. A few videos from the primary are still available, if all candidates on the November ballot were represented in the forum.

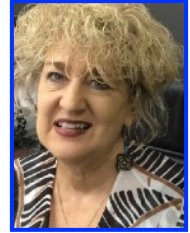
The **Make a Plan to Vote**, lwvpgh.org/make_a_plan, and **Mail-in Voting**, lwvpgh.org/mail-in pages are both updated with current dates and resource links. And, the **Voter Resource Library**, lwvpgh.org/resource_library, is highlighting updated voter registration and election information.

How can you help get this information to voters? Please share these webpage links with friends and family through email or on Nextdoor. If you use social media, follow LWVPGH on Facebook and Twitter, and share our election-related posts on your page.

CIVIC EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY by Amy Kleissas, Chair

College-University Update:

Our team's primary mission is to visit high schools with presentations that include civic education and voter registration. However, in the fall, colleges-universities are the visits we tend to schedule. In late summer, we created a new presentation for colleges-universities entitled, *"How to Be a Citizen Activist: 101 Years of Advocacy and Action by the League of Women Voters"*.



The good news is that more colleges-universities have reached out to us this year. With the help of the College-University Team for some of these engagements, these are the scheduled visits with presentations, so far:

- ✓ **CMU – Completed 8.28.21**
- ✓ **LaRoche University — Completed 9.23.21**
- ✓ **University of Pittsburgh Civic Action Week—10.8.21 at 10-11am**
- ✓ **Chatham (PA Center for Women & Politics) with BPEP: Activist Training—10.13.21 at 4:00-5:30pm**
- ✓ **Duquesne University—11.15.21, 11.17.21, 11.19-21 at 1-1:50pm**

Voter Service also completed student registration events at CMU and LaRoche and may have other college-university registration events scheduled.

NEW "Presentation Library":

We have created a new **"Presentation Library"** webpage that can be found under "Civic Education Outreach" in the Menu or at www.lwvpg.org/slides. Included are past and present Civic Education presentations and League presentations from Eileen Olmsted and Cris Beuger. We are sharing these presentations (slide decks) so that members and local Leagues may use them as reliable resources.

Only *"previews"* of PowerPoints for *high school and college/university students* will be available to users. They will need to email Amy Kleissas for the entire PowerPoint. When clicked on, previews or entire PowerPoints (Community) will download and then can be opened.

October 26—LWVPGH General Meeting – 7-8:30pm:

Our teammate, Michele Knoll, now a Board member whose portfolio includes Advocacy, proposed the idea that the Civic Education Team present the High School presentation, **"#Make Government Work for You"** for members. The goal will be to demonstrate how we present in high schools and colleges-universities with this PowerPoint, which will be modified for LWVPGH members.

Hope you will add Tuesday, October 26, 2021 (7-8:30pm) to your calendar, now!

NEW MEMBERS

South Hills

Mary Dowd
marydowd101@gmail.com

Nora Lersch
nora.lersch@comcast.net

North Hills

Georgiana Likar
thelikars@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB REPORT by Joan Cucinotta

MEETING SUMMARY

1. We started the meeting by welcoming Jacqueline Anderson, a new LWVPGH member. Then Ruth Quint, our local League webmaster, spoke to offer us space on the LWVPGH website to bring our discussions and learning to the broader organization by writing book reviews, doing interviews, inviting speakers, and simply answering interesting questions regarding book choices. The group happily embraced these ideas and hopes to produce some content soon.
2. These are the book selections for the next three months:
 - October 15 *Humankind: a Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman,
 - November 19 *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer,
 - December 17 *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can All Prosper Together* by Heather McGee.

Because we very much like to hear opposing voices, we looked for a devil's advocate for our next book discussion and to argue against its premise and conclusions. Phyllis Dryfuss and Joan Gaul will take up that task.

3. Our next meeting will be held at the shelter on Friday, October 19, at 10:30 A.M. Bring a lunch if you wish. If the weather is not cooperative, we will zoom. Stay tuned.

BOOK REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

How to Hide an Empire: History of the Greater United States by Daniel Immerwahr examines the reasons for US land acquisitions and concludes that the US has been empire-building all along. At the beginning of the twentieth century the US possessed a number of "guano" islands around the world to be used as airstrips. After the Spanish-American war, the US had come into several large parcels of land (among them - the Philippines, Guam, Puerto Rico, and a base at Guantanamo Bay). With this expansion of interest into the Pacific, Teddy Roosevelt was able to use Panamanian rebels to help him acquire the land strip for the Canal from Columbia.

Empire building is essentially problematic for the US. If we are a republic, what are we doing colonizing places? Do the inhabitants of territories have the same rights as US citizens? Are the taxation laws the same? Does the Constitution apply only to the states (the Supreme Court decided it does). The book notes that the US is always reluctant to see the inhabitants of this "pointillist" empire as having rights, a reluctance stemming from racism. Even though the bombing of Pearl Harbor signaled the US entry into WW2, white supremecist held up statehood for Hawaii and Alaska for another decade.

The citizens of these territories were often used and abused, case in point - Puerto Rico where the population was subjected to medical experiments without their permission or awareness. Puerto Ricans have been used to test hookworm medicine, chemo chemicals, mustard gas, and all forms of birth control. Many suffered greatly from these experiments, never knowing they had been used as test subjects.

Having defeated Japan primarily using air and not land power, the US found that the critical raw materials and strategic global positions could be managed without the responsibilities of land ownership. While the rest of the world was rebuilding after the war, the US raced ahead in air power, radio technology, advances in agricultural chemicals, and advances in pharmaceuticals —all of which supported our growing global dominance. Then, the US began to set standards for many industries which other countries were forced to follow if they wanted to trade. The US explosion in technologies and inventions allowed the US to have

Continued next page

“domination without annexation”—all the benefits and none of the drawbacks of colonizing. The most significant element in cementing the US position as an empire is the English language. Fluency in English is the entry pass for everything from air traffic controllers and pilots, to scientific studies, to international trade, and now even the Internet. People who want to maintain their cultural identity have a very hard time maintaining their own native language and see the de facto ubiquity of English as “the ultimate act of intellectual colonialism.”

This leads to explaining how the US is perceived in other countries, especially those in which we do not acknowledge our dominance, but act with impunity constantly. The author says this makes us unwelcome at best and makes them want to send planes into our buildings at worst. US standards, currency, entertainment, military, and the English language all serve to impose our imperial will on the rest of the world.

Needless to say, there was pushback by the Book Club readers.

A few found the book decidedly off putting. The description of empire expansion that paints the US as one behemoth bully needs to be balanced; the US has done much for other countries. Some of the pushback started with the phrase, “Has the author ever heard of the Marshall Plan?” Several of our readers have and pointed out that connecting US expansion to colonialism and racism is just a way to sell books. On the other hand, many agreed that 9/11 is a direct result of US empire building, especially in places that explicitly don’t want our ‘help.’ Several members agreed that we do act like absentee landlords towards many in US holdings and territories, ignoring them until it suits our interests, and we have been doing this since Pearl Harbor. As we talked about US intrusion into other places, we thought of the recent Afghanistan withdrawal. There was no way to leave Afghanistan except in a messy way; and the US finally acknowledged that our empire building there had run aground.

Advocacy Committee by Michele Knoll

The new Advocacy Committee has set its course to educate, inform and take action on a number of areas. This year at our monthly General Meetings, in conjunction with the Programing Committee, we intend to focus on:

- ROCIS or Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces ([ROCIS.org](https://rocis.org)),
- Promoting Civic education in the community with the Civic Education Committee,
- Understanding the issues facing education in Pennsylvania today with Dr. Jerry Zahorchak,
- Gun Safety in conjunction with Moms Demand Action,
- Social Justice in Allegheny County, and the environment, specifically sustainability and composting.

As we explore each topic, we will identify action items for League members to act on. After the presentation on ROCIS, this past Wednesday, League members were invited to join a cohort to participate in monitoring their home’s indoor air quality. If you were unable to join our Kick-Off meeting, you may still be able to join this cohort or the one starting in December; just go to [ROCIS.org](https://rocis.org) and sign up.

We are also hoping to initiate Lunch and Learn meetings which will be informative as well include an action item.

Our next monthly meeting will be held on zoom on October 18th at 11 a.m. Please check the Blast for the link to zoom.

Information on many issues’ worth advocating for are found on the slack channel. For access to the League’s Slack, please contact Maureen Grosheider (president@lwvpgh.org) or Michele Knoll (advocacy@lwvpgh.org).

BRAVER ANGELS WORKSHOPS

Separate, Simultaneous Communication Skills Workshops for those “Leaning Red” and those “Leaning Blue” on Zoom on Monday, October 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

RED WORKSHOP

Communication Skills for Bridging the Political Divide Workshop (for Red-Leaning Attendees)

Mon, October 18, 2021, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT, on Zoom. [Register at this link.](#)

There's a lot of stress these days among family members and friends who are divided politically, and the current polarized public conversation doesn't help. This workshop is for red-leaning folks (i.e., people who lean conservative philosophically or tend to vote for Republicans) who are interested in having better conversations with people on the other side of the political aisle. You will learn and practice skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship. See below for general information.

BLUE WORKSHOP

Communication Skills for Bridging the Political Divide Workshop (for Blue-Leaning Attendees)

Mon, October 18, 2021, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM EDT, on Zoom. [Register at this link.](#)

There's a lot of stress these days among family members and friends who are divided politically, and the current polarized public conversation doesn't help. This workshop is for blue-leaning folks (i.e., people who lean liberal or progressive philosophically or tend to vote for Democrats) who are interested in having better conversations with people on the other side of the political aisle. You will learn and practice skills for having respectful conversations that clarify differences, search for common ground, and affirm the importance of the relationship. See below for general information.

General Information relative to both workshops:

Each workshop does the following: 1) Provides knowledge about what it takes to have constructive, non-polarizing conversations between people who disagree politically. 2) Gives you the chance to practice these skills to have these conversations. 3) Motivates you to have these conversations with people in your social network.

Each is a two-part workshop combining an online eLearning course and an online, interactive workshop offered over Zoom.

Part one consists of a 40-minute, interactive course. You complete this online before the workshop and get the link upon registration.

Part two is practicing what you've learned in a 90-minute, online workshop. You will practice the listening and speaking skills in a pair with someone of your own political persuasion.



The LWVPGH is one of 12 co-sponsors. Questions? **Contact Lindy Ferriss at lferriss@braverangels.org.**