

ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE

November 2016

President's Message

By Cathy Serventi

In a happy coincidence, Allegheny West elections and US elections fall on the same day. (I guess if we'd really been coordinating I would have managed to have the AWCC officer elections on the state ballot.) Consider the following exhortations about "your civic duty"... "this is one of the clearest avenues to influence policies"... "don't complain if you don't vote" ... yada yada... to apply to both elections equally:

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU VOTE!

(Assuming you've properly registered and our paid your membership dues of course!)

As an added bonus we will all have a good incentive to be efficient in our decision making at the meeting so we can go home and wait for the West Coast to hurry up and finish counting.

Proposed amendment to the AWCC Constitution and Bylaws

Below please find the proposed amendment to the AWCC Constitution and Bylaws from the July 12, 2016 AWCC meeting.

First paragraph of Duties of Officers should be changed to read (changes underlined in bold):

"The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council and Executive Committee, and shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. **He The President** may appoint special committees, and shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to the office. The President along with the Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget for presentation at the June meeting for the fiscal year beginning in July. The budget will be voted on at the July membership meeting."

Implementation: According to Article XII Bylaws, the amendment may be adopted upon presentation in writing of the proposed change at one regular meeting, and the publication in the Allegheny West Gazette, and a two-thirds majority vote concurring at the next regular meeting (November 11, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.).

Above and Beyond

A big Happy Halloween! from the neighborhood to Kevin for making all the arrangements to close Beech to traffic so the munchkins (and Elsas, and Ironmen, and Batmans - see examples of the cuteness here) were safe! Extra special thanks to the Delta Foundation for sponsoring a police officer at the intersection at Beech and Galveston. Also the peanut butter crackers that Councilwoman Harris' office dropped off for the festivities were much appreciated by all (especially those of us who were planning to have Halloween candy for dinner).



AWCC Calendar

Monday, November 7 @ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Tour Labeling Party → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Tuesday, November 8 @ 7:30 p.m.

General Membership → Calvary Church: 971 Beech

Wednesday, November 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Tour Planning Meeting → 950 Beech

Friday, November 11 @ 6:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Mixer → Modern Cafe

Tuesday, November 15 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee → Office: 806 Western

Tuesday, November 22 @ 7:30 p.m. (4th not last)

Executive Committee → AWCC Office: 806 Western

Stay tuned for information on **bowling** in upcoming months!

DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 8 @ 7:30 P.M. Calvary United Methodist Church, 971 Beech Ave

1. Visitors: Erin Tobin, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
2. Minutes
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Tree & Scholarship Sponsorship for Stella "Yia Yia"
5. Bylaw Vote
6. Elections!
7. Ways and Means: Christmas Tour
 - Volunteer sign ups
 - 2 more houses
 - 5 year plan w/ Calvary
8. Housing and Planning Updates
 - Film guidelines
 - Western Ave.
 - Light of Life
 - Buhl Grant meetings
9. Green space: Parklet
10. Membership Events
 - 50th Anniversary: Axles and Ales - Report
 - Mixers?
 - History Project Update?
11. Property: 806 Western Improvements
12. Friends
13. Committee Q&A

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2016 Old Allegheny Victorian Christmas House Tour: Our 35th Year!

The 2016 tour will be on Friday, December 9th from 5-8P.M. and Saturday, December 10th from 10A.M.-8P.M. Tickets for the tour are \$30 until November 30th; \$35 after that date. Train museum tickets are \$12; \$15 after November 30th.

Postcard Mailing: The annual labeling of the Tour postcards is set for Monday, November 7th, 7 P.M. at Calvary. Please join us! We'll have pizza and snacks – with your help, we will be able to quickly put address labels on the 8,000 mailers that we send to potential tour visitors.

Ticket Sales: Tickets are available on our website (<http://alleghenywest.org/tour/old-allegheny-victorian-christmas-house-tour/>)

and we have sold blocks of tours to a few groups. Expect tickets to sell at a brisk pace once our mailers are delivered.

The Holiday Gift Shop: The shop will again be in the lower level of Calvary Church, so guests can shop before as well as after the Tour.

For more information about the Shop, please contact Martin Fuess: glasscatcher38@aol.com.

Train Museum: The popular Toy Train Museum will, once again, be open at Holmes Hall. Visitors can visit before their tour or after they finish the tour of Holmes Hall. Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. DVDs of the train exhibit will again be for sale for \$15, and a limited number of the fine train books are available for \$100.

Street Decorating: We will be decorating the streets on Saturday, December 3rd, starting at 9:00A.M. Volunteers will be bundling greens to create the lamppost swags in the Serventi/Wilson garage on Dounton Way. This is an easy and fun way to get into the holiday spirit – and we can finish the job quickly with about 20 volunteers.

Clean Up: Please take some time to pick up litter and leaves in front of your house the morning of each tour day (Friday and Saturday). If each of us fills just one bag, or streets will be clean!

We need your help! There are many opportunities to volunteer. During the tour, be a greeter at Calvary, a tour guide, a house sitter for a homeowner on tour, a conductor at the train museum, or be ready to help with salting or shoveling if we get snow that weekend. Or, help with the volunteer party or set up the luminaria. Contact Carrie Doyle (cadpgh@gmail.com or 412-337-6020) or come to our next meeting on November 9th @ 7:00 P.M., and she'll get you to the coordinator of that activity.

Fall Yard Waste Curbside Collection

The Department of Public Works (DPW) Bureau of Environmental Services will be collecting yard debris from all residents in a special curbside collection on Saturday, November 12, 2016. The following yard waste resources will be accepted during collection: **leaves, branches** (4 inch diameter or less), **brush**, and **grass**. Bagged debris should be in **paper bags weighing less than 35 pounds**. Bundled debris should be bound with fiber twine or natural rope. Branch lengths should not exceed five feet. Residents should place yard debris at curbside locations and recycling/refuse pick up spots **before 6:00 A.M. on November 12**.

Street Cleaning Reminder: This month's street cleaning is on **Tuesday, November 8** and **Monday, November 14**.

AWCC Board Nominations and Voting

Board members will be voted on in November. To vote for board members, or any other issue at a council meeting, members are required to be “in good standing.” Per the Allegheny West Civic Council bylaws, a member in good standing is a person or organization who has paid dues for the year and belongs either as an individual or group. (For bylaws, visit: <http://alleghenywest.org/get-involved/allegheny-west-civic-council/bylaws/>) The slate will be proposed at the October general membership meeting at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. If you intend to vote please make sure you’re in good standing and have paid your dues. If you’re unsure feel free to send an e-mail to membership@alleghenywest.org.

The nominating committee is proposing the following slate of officers for 2017:

President: John DeSantis

Ways and Means Committee: Vacant

Vice President: Ann Gilligan

Membership Committee: Scott Mosser

Treasurer: Dan Adam

Communications Committee: Sara Sweeney

Recording Secretary: Michael Shealey

Housing and Planning Committee: Timothy Zinn

Sergeant-at-Arms: Fran Barbush

Friends of Allegheny West: Trish Burton

Property Committee: Elaine Stone

Ex Officio, Past President: Cathy Serventi

Clear Thoughts Foundation *Roll for a Reason Gala*

Submitted by Carol Gomrick

The Clear Thoughts Foundation will be held on November 12th at J Verno's Studio (Southside). We're working very hard on all of the details to make this year bigger and better than last. In addition to wonderful trips, sports tickets, and memorabilia for auction, I'm thrilled to announce that we'll also be auctioning a Muhammad Ali signed boxing glove! All of this is so exciting. However, our relentless focus is still to fund the research leading to a cure for dementia which is the for our 2106 Roll for a Reason Gala. I hope you can make it. Please look at the Clear Thoughts Foundation website for more information and to buy tickets: www.clearthoughtsfoundation.org.

Neighborhood Cleanups

There is no neighborhood cleanup in November. Last-Saturday-of-the-month cleanups will resume in the spring of 2017. Thanks to all who have come out for the cleanups in 2016! And thank you to **Michael Shealey** for organizing the cleanups!

Fall Office Hours: AWCC office hours for the fall are Mon. & Fri., 12:00 P.M.–3:00 P.M. and Tue & Thu., 9:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Changes to Office Hours are posted to the calendar available on the website: www.alleghenywest.org.

The Allegheny West Gazette

Editor: Karen Haller Beer

The monthly newsletter of the Allegheny West Civic Council. Letters, submissions, advertising and other notices by the first of the month to: gazette@alleghenywest.org. Submission does not guarantee publication.

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