

AWCC Calendar**Tuesday, January 12 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Tour Wrap-Up Meeting, Calvary Church

Tuesday, January 12 @ 7:30 p.m.

AWCC General Membership Meeting, Calvary Church

Tuesday, January 19 @ 7:30 p.m.

Housing & Planning Committee Meeting, Calvary Church

Tuesday, 1/26 @ 7:30 p.m.

Executive Committee Meeting, Calvary Church

Bowling at the Allegheny Elks begins this**Wednesday, January 13.****LeClaire, Griewahn & Scott, LLC**
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DRAFT Agenda: AWCC Membership Meeting

January 12, 2015 7:00pm, (EARLY START TIME)

Calvary Church at 971 Beech Ave.

Agenda

- House Tour Discussion
- Stables Presentation
- Calvary Presentation
- New neighbors
- Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Thank you to last year's officers / Welcome to New Officers
- House Tour Update
- Housing and Planning Updates
 - Western Ave.
 - Request to sponsor the Cigarette Disposal project
- AWDC Updates
- Grant Updates:
 - Council CDFG: Trash Can Update
 - Buhl One Northside Community Update
- NSLC
- Upcoming Membership Events
- Committee Q&A
 - Housing & Planning
 - Ways & Means
 - Membership
 - Property
 - Friends of Allegheny West
 - Communications
 - NSLC
 - Allegheny Commons

Send a note to president@alleghenywest.org if you have additional agenda items to add**ALLEGHENY WEST GAZETTE**

January 2016

President's Message

Happy New Year Everyone! I'm one of those people who makes, and occasionally even keeps, New Year's resolutions; so I thought I would share a couple of the resolutions I made for this year.

But before I do that, I do want to take a minute to send out a huge thank you to everyone who did such an amazing job on the tour. Trish, along with Gloria & Carrie were really able to recruit and organize an amazing amount of support for the tour. I'm tempted to just list out everyone who helped but I'm pretty sure that it would take up the entire newsletter. I'm not sure folks realize that over 100 volunteers participate in the tour every year! For a neighborhood of somewhere around 300 people, that just boggles my mind. We've been working with some of the other neighborhoods on how to support each other's efforts and when people ask us for advice on how to pull off a successful tour, I always end up saying, "Have wonderful, great, amazing neighbors!" Not sure how useful that advice actually is, but frankly it's the truth. Please join us for a Tour wrap up discussion before Tuesday's membership meeting (7:00 p.m.) so we can run through what worked really well and discuss any ideas for things we want to try differently next year.

Back to the resolutions. This is it, this is the year! WE ARE GOING TO FINISH REVISING THE BYLAWS! There I said it, you all heard me. Feel free to stop me on the street and ask me how the bylaws are coming along. I promise not to deluge you with the minutiae of current best practices around conflicts of interest for Board of Directors for nonprofits. (Unless you really want to know...) A couple of more areas we also want to address are things like defining more clearly eligibility for voting memberships and the accountability and management of funds. If you're interested in our current Bylaws they are posted on our site at <http://alleghenywest.org/get-involved/allegheny-west-civic-council/bylaws/>. Gloria, Jim and Bob M. have also put in a lot of effort on this project which will hopefully end soon.

Also, the grant for the Buhl Foundation came through, so you'll start hearing a lot more from Martha and I about how we can improve quality of life. I have some other goals: Sell all the real estate! Organize the filing in the office! But the bylaws and the Buhl grant will be my main focus for this year. Stay tuned to hear more from new and returning committee chairs for their plans as well. (cont.)

From the President (cont.)

Finally, I hope to see you all at the first meeting of the new year. We'll have presentations from the folks who are purchasing the Stables (yay!) about their plans for it, as well as our annual update from Calvary.

We'll also be welcoming the new board members and thanking board members who are rolling off the board or changing positions.

Hope to see you all there!

Cathy

Above and Beyond

If there's anything that embodies Above & Beyond in service to the neighborhood it's serving on the AWCC Board. I wanted to take some time to acknowledge the contributions of folks who are rolling off the AWCC Board. Their voices and experience will be missed even as we welcome new board members with new perspectives. We won't miss them too much though since we'll still, hopefully be hearing lots from them at the monthly membership meetings and in our "virtual" neighborhood. **Jim Wallace** has a strict policy of no more than two years of being on the board without a break, and I was lucky enough to get to work with him during an ON period as Housing & Planning chair. Housing & Planning is a huge job, and we really relied on Jim's encyclopedic knowledge of all the players and pieces in the Northside real-estate game. He's also a pro at keeping the AWCC Facebook page stocked with an amazing array of historic photos and stories to keep us all inspired. On the other hand, I'm not sure **Mary Callison** has had a break from the board in over a decade. She managed everything from Property to Membership and lots of stuff in between. She's also the architect and caretaker of the gorgeous parklet on the corner of Western and Brighton. Whenever the flowers there make you smile you can send a restful thought in Mary's direction. She's earned it. **Trish Burton** jumped in and took over one of the most rigorous jobs in the neighborhood, Ways and Means, and the spectacular House and Wine tours were the result. She's an important voice of calm and kindness during passionate debates as well, which I will miss even more than her lemon flavored treats. **Fran Barbush** has been with the neighborhood from the very beginning (well not the 1860s beginning ... more like the beginning of modern incarnation of Allegheny West as we know it). In between cranking out newsletter like clockwork, she's always willing to step up and save a lamppost (or 4) or hold a government official accountable for a "too easy" answer with the credibility of long experience to back it up. I also want to acknowledge the willingness of current board members **Gloria Rayman, John DeSantis, and Anne Gilligan** to take on new positions on the board and **Michael Shealey and Bob Griewahn** to continue their excellent work in their current roles.

The Gazette - Editor: Karen Haller Beer

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

Calling All Cooks!!!

Allegheny West is starting to gather recipes to compile a neighborhood cookbook to use for a fundraiser. Do you love to cook and have favorite recipes you know people would enjoy trying? Are there delicious and cherished family recipes you would be willing to share? Please send your recipes to Debra Kelly via email to: kellem2001@hotmail.com. Please double check for typos and ingredients and include your name and if you are submitting a family recipe please include the name and relationship of the person whose recipe you are including.

Christmas Tour Wrap-up and Thanks

We'll be meeting at 7p.m. next **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**, immediately before the AWCC monthly meeting, to brainstorm about what worked this year and what might be improved upon for next year's tour. Please join us, or send your (constructive!) comments to: jmburton@earthlink.net.

We hope to have more finalized numbers by next week, but in the meantime, we were delighted to have such a smooth-running, sold-out tour this year. Thank you to co-chairs **Cathy Serventi** and **Gloria Rayman**, and thanks to all who helped. A special thanks goes to those who assumed a sub-committee coordinator position: **Doug Sprague** (guides); **Brandon Williams** (greeters); **Mary Ann Murphy/Cecile Canales** (trains); **Carrie Doyle** (party); **Lola Bistro** (brunches); **Martin Fuess** (Christmas Shoppe); **Allison Fatla** (script); **Greg Coll** (brochure); **Chris Fetter** (luminaria); **Nonie Knaus** (house-sitters).

Of course, we couldn't have done it without the owners who generously put their properties on Tour: **Geff Young**; **Greg Coll and Doris Short**; **Hilary and Scott Mosser**; **Deb Kelly and Doug Debelak**; **Babb, Inc.**; **John Desantis**; and **Calvary UMC**. Thank you for allowing our 1700+ visitors and volunteers to enjoy your beautifully decorated homes! Thanks also to the neighbors who dropped off dinners, bottles of wine and baked goods to my house! This all helped to get my family through the weeks leading up to the Tour and it was much appreciated. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting next week.

Trish Burton

5th Annual Brunch Challenge to Support Northside Common Ministries

Are you free on Saturday, January 23, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.? If so, consider! Each year 10 to 12 chefs from some of the best eateries in the area come together to test their skills. They make a tasty brunch appetizer out of the food commonly distributed in the community food pantry. Along with a delightful meal, attendees enjoy some great music and a chance to meet other supporters of our neighborhood food pantry. Tickets sell out early—they are just \$25—order now. All proceeds benefit the Northside Common Ministries Food Pantry.

Event is at New Hazlett Theater, Allegheny Center Mall Pgh Pa 15212 / To reserve, visit www.ncmin.org or call 412-323-1163.

Blood Drive

Our neighbors at Babb, Inc. are hosting a blood drive this **Monday, January 16th** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the ballroom of their building at 850 Ridge Avenue. **WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!** Remember, before you donate blood, make sure that you've eaten well and are hydrated. Please bring a Photo ID with you. Thank you for your support!