

Health Care Reform

There have been many misconceptions circulating about the Act and talk about repealing it or defunding it. But we should take note that the Business Roundtable, which includes many of the most prominent CEOs in the country, recognizes the costs if the US did not act. If nothing changes, by 2019, total health care spending will consume more than 20 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. Many other experts have stated that comprehensive health-care reform is our most potent deficit reduction weapon. It reduces the deficit by \$1.2 trillion in the next 20 years, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.³

The Act will extend health insurance coverage to more than 30,000,000 US Citizens. As many as 184,000 currently uninsured West Virginians will gain access to insurance. More than 4 million small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to pay for health insurance for their employees.

Programs to prevent Medicare fraud have been substantially improved.

WHAT WILL THE AFFORDABLE ACT DO?

Some of the programs of the Act will not kick in until 2014, and some gradually over a longer period. Here are some of the changes in how health care will be improved in the U.S.

Now children can't be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions and eventually that will apply to everyone. There are no longer lifetime limits so you will not have to worry about going bankrupt if someone in your family becomes severely ill. Young adults can stay on their parent's insurance plan until they reach 26.

Some 16 million Americans will be eligible for Medicaid in 2014 under the new law. Medical Exchanges will make it easier to find and purchase affordable insurance. If you cannot afford health insurance, you will be eligible for tax credits.

West Virginia's community health centers now serve nearly 375,000. The Act will improve and expand these centers so that more West Virginians will have a health home for primary care, pediatrics, pharmacy, dentistry, and mental health services. These services all enhance preventive care and decrease the need for going to emergency care, an expensive alternative.

Preventive care is expanded and will be free for many. Such care includes flu vaccines, mammograms and even diet counseling for adults at-risk of chronic disease.

Seniors who subscribe to the Medicare Part D prescription drug program and are in the "doughnut hole" will receive \$250 this year. Gradually the "doughnut hole" will disappear.

For more information please visit www.healthcare.gov.

³ www.lwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/November-2010-bulletin.doc

West Virginia Local Leagues Learn Best Practices for Membership Recruitment

On November 13, 2010, representatives from the West Virginia local Leagues joined their state coaches Nancy Novak and Teresa Koon, their national coach Ruth S. Shur, Fellow Diana Haskell, and LWVUS Recruitment and Training Coordinator Sara Richman in Clarksburg, WV for a day-long training to learn best practices to become strong, welcoming Leagues that are visible in their communities. West Virginia State President Susan Watkins also attended the training. During the training, local League members received personalized support from state coaches to create a plan and calendar for the year ahead. In the future, the local Leagues will continue to receive regularized support and guidance from the state coaches that they met at the training. The training is part of the Membership Recruitment Initiative and was underwritten by the Leaders for Leadership Fund. Lunch was provided by the LWV of West Virginia.²

Morgantown-Monongalia League leaders Fran Nelson, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Shirley Rosenbaum, and Linda Yoder attended the membership recruitment training. The state coach for the Morgantown-Monongahela League is Nancy Novak.

Morgantown-Monongalia League of Women Voters October Activities

The Morgantown-Monongahela League was very busy in the month of October in preparation for the Nov. 2nd election. The activities sponsored by the League included:

- October 4 - Public meeting with the County Planner and President of County Planning Comm. on West Run Zoning Vote
- October 6 - Candidate Forum for State Senate (2 running) and County Commission (2 running) Big crowd
- October 12 - Encouraged members to attend the movie "Gasland" about Marcellus Shale drilling at the WVU Law School
- October 18 - 3 members helped with the timing and "hosting" at the PBS U.S Senate Candidate Forum
- October 20 - Candidate Forum for WV House of Delegates (10 total candidates). Smaller crowd but they stayed late talking to the candidates.

² www.lwv.org

Membership and Dues

We thought that members might like to know who the other members of the local league are. In addition, the treasurer is often asked "Have I paid my dues yet?" Below is a list of Morgantown-Monongalia League of Women Voters members (as of November 2010). The * indicates that this year's dues (due by the end of December 2010) have been paid. A list of members with addresses and other contact information will be published in a newsletter after January 1. For corrections, call Lyndell at 599-0904.

Abbott, Judy	* Kelly, P. Nadine
* Albrink, Margaret	* Key, Nancy
* Andrews, Evelyn	Klishis, Michelle
* Baer, Betty	LaRue, Ralph
* Bagby, Janice	* Lozier, Catherine
Blaskovics, Kay	* Markle, Emily A.
* Brinkman-Windle, Sharon	* Marshall, Phyllis
* Brown, Sally	McCarty, Martha
* Brown, Paul	* Millecchia, Lyndell
Canady, Loulie	* Nelson, Frances
* Clausell, Arlene	Overbeck, Henry
Clausell, Paul	* Pahl, Ann
Dailey, Jean	* Palmer, Kelly
Davidson, Ann	* Parker, Christine
* Davis, Dorcas	* Price, Vanessa
* Davis, William	Pytlik, Clay
* Dillon, Edna	* Renahan, Elizabeth
* Earisman, Keigh	* Rosenbaum, Shirley
* Evans Fleischauer, Barbara	* Rosenbaum, Jonathan
* Frich, Cindy	* Simbra, Norma
* Frich, Marlene	* Treat, Nancy
Ghalichebaf, Karen S.	* Treat, Richard
* Gunel, Janis	Waugh, Lillian
Hudkins, E. Jane	* White, Barbara
Humphreys, Jean	* Yoder, Linda

If You Haven't Paid Your Dues...

Dues are \$40 for an individual and \$60 for a household. Dues must be received by the end of December to meet the LWV-US membership deadline for this year. **In January, our local dues will increase to \$44 for an individual, \$66 for a household.**

Checks should be made to **LWV Morgantown-Monongalia County** and should be mailed to:
Lyndell Millecchia
476 Lawnview Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505

We welcome five new members to the League: Paul and Sally Brown, Keigh Earisman, P. Nadine Kelly, and Nancy Key.

Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters Newsletter

November 2010

WV Sierra Club Member to Speak on Dec. 8th on Impacts of Marcellus Shale Drilling

Calendar

December 8th Wednesday	Presentation on the Environmental Impacts of Marcellus Shale Drilling 7-9 pm Aull Center 451 Spruce St.
January 20th 2011	Board Meeting 7 pm 345 Virginia Ave.
January-March 2011	Letter Writing and Lobbying Campaign Marcellus Shale
April 2011	City Council Candidates Forum

The West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club has initiated a campaign to protect our waters and communities from the hydro-fracking process, and other environmental abuses, associated with drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale rock formations of the Appalachian Mountains.¹

On December 8th from 7-9 pm at the Aull Center located within the Garlow House at 451 Spruce St., Beth Little who is a member of the Sierra Club's Campaign Steering Committee will be giving a presentation about the environmental risks associated with Marcellus Shale drilling. A brief explanation of the materials to be covered in her presentation can be found below.

The impacts of Marcellus shale gas drilling with horizontal hydro-fracking are many times greater than those of earlier gas drilling. They include:

- water withdrawals from our streams and rivers of many millions of gallons of water
- disposal of the waste water containing high levels of salts from the earth and toxic chemicals from the fracking fluids
- potential groundwater contamination from spills, buried pit waste, failed impoundments and other accidents
- unknown and much debated impacts from the fracking, which involves forcing the water with chemicals and sand under extremely high pressure into the shale to release the gas

2010 Annual Meeting

New board members were elected at the 2010 annual meeting:

2 nd Vice President	Fran Nelson
Treasurer	Lyndell Millecchia
Director	Janis Gunel
Director	Phyllis Marshall
Director	Emily Markle

Continuing board members are: President - Kitty Lozier; 1st Vice Pres. - Nancy Treat; Secretary - Linda Yoder; Directors - Kelly Palmer, Vanessa Price, and Shirley Rosenbaum.

The existing regulations in WV are not sufficient to deal with these impacts, and the WV DEP admits they do not have the resources in either inspectors or regulations to deal with the rush to drill. As we digest the older regulations to prepare suggested improvements, we discover glaring problems that allowed industry to follow practices that threaten the environment.

There will be new legislation proposed from a number of sources in the upcoming session, and much contact is needed from the public to counteract heavy pressure from the gas industry against effective regulations. The Oil & Gas Association lead lobbyist has stated that no new regulation is necessary.

There are movements for moratoriums against drilling on public lands, in karst areas, within city limits and critical watersheds. Please join us for this informative presentation.

¹ westvirginia.sierraclub.org/marcellus_campaign.htm