# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Nancy Novak 295-8215 nnovakwv@gmail.com

Local *Voter:* Kathy Stoltz, 295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

LWVWV [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, March 18 Reservation Deadline for

 Annual Meeting

**Thurs. March 21 Annual Dinner Meeting**

 **Parkersburg Country Club**

Mon. April 8 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

Mon. April 22 7pm Membership Meeting

 Wood County Library

 Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 21

 Parkersburg Country Club

 6:00 p.m., Social time, 6:30 p.m. Dinner

 Our guest speaker will be Jill Parsons, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley. The Chamber describes itself as “a coalition of area businesses, industries, organizations, and professionals who pool their talents and resources to improve the economic, civic, and cultural climate of their community.” ([www.movchamber.org](http://www.movchamber.org))

 The Chamber engages in advocacy with government officials to “help ensure a prosperous future for our region and its citizens.”

 We’ve asked Ms. Parsons to talk about the role of the Chamber in our area, the issues on which it is active, and her priorities as the CEO, a position she has held for two years after an earlier career in hospital administration and marketing.

A brief business meeting will follow. ►

Voter

 March 2013

The menu offers a choice of Chicken Milano (with broccoli, crumbled bacon and Hollandaise), Chef’s Choice Fish, or Vegetarian Pasta, all served with twice-baked potato, house salad, hot rolls, and chocolate mousse cake for dessert. Cost is $25 per person. Reservations are due by March 18.

A reservation form is included on page 2 of the Voter. Spouses and guests are welcome.

 LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS: If you are concerned about whether your reservation will reach the treasurer by the 18th, please email her at RMweiser@suddenlink.net or call Marion at 304-428-3608. Give her names and menu choices and then mail your check.

 **DUES**

Invite your friends to the annual meeting and encourage them to join. Through March there is a $10 reduction in dues for **NEW** members, $30 for one member, $50 for two at one address.

Dues for **renewing** members become due April 1 and are $40 for individuals, $60 for two people at one address. The treasurer will be happy to receive checks at the annual meeting.

LWV State Convention

 The state League convention will be held Saturday, May 4 in Jefferson County. Wood County may send up to delegates in addition to our two state board members. If interested in attending, contact Nancy Novak for more information.

 Convention is an opportunity to exchange ideas with other members from around the state, meet state board members, and give direction to the state board.

Page 2, March. 2013 *Voter*

Tell your legislators what *you* think

Using the information in the officials roster enclosed in the February Voter or available at [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us), you can link to any member of the Legislature’s email or find an address for snail mail or a phone number. Pick an issue and let them know how you feel. When contacting legislators about an issue, do so as an individual. Only designated members may speak on behalf of the League.

Voter ID – Tell them you don’t want the state to waste money solving a problem that doesn’t exist and that you don’t want thousands of eligible voters to lose their right to vote when we already have effective laws in place. There are other steps the legislature could take (but hasn’t) to clean up election problems that do exist – none of which Voter ID solves.

Public Financing for Supreme Court of Appeals elections – Tell them you want the successful pilot project to be made permanent. HB2805, SB413

Water Quality – The House has passed HB2579, which weakens the standard for selenium (mostly from surface mines) in waterways. A very small amount of selenium is essential for good health; too much is toxic. This bill gives the coal industry a pass on treatment. If the Senate passes it, the Governor will sign it.

Energy Efficiency – HB2210 provides the Public Service Commission the authority to require electric utilities to develop and implement plans for the efficient use, conservation and reduction of energy usage. The bill was referred to Judiciary Committee.

Guns – The House has passed HB2760, which establishes uniform regulation of firearms and ammunition statewide. This bill nullifies stricter local regulations for firearm sales that some municipalities have adopted. Bill is now in Senate Government Organization Committee. ►

Education – The current issue of *The Legislature*, published by the WV School Board Association, lists 83 education-related bills under four headings. See:

[www.publications.wsba.org/2013/03/11/personnelretirement](http://www.publications.wsba.org/2013/03/11/personnelretirement)

Home Rule – The Senate has passed SB435, which extends the Home Rule Pilot project for five more years and extends eligibility to smaller cities that the original pilot project. Participating cities are given more flexibility to operate than state law and regulations allow. The bill was referred to the House Government Organization Committee where a House version of the bill also rests.

**Let the Sunshine In**



 This is Sunshine Week, a nation-wide effort to remind us and our public officials that openness and transparency are essential ingredients of a working democracy. The LWV’s mission is to promote informed and active citizen participation in government – not just on Election Day, but all year long.

 Feeling powerless to actually get Congress to stop bickering and actually do the people’s work? Befuddled by the number of bills introduced in the Legislature - somewhere around 1500 so far?

*Then think local*. Sometime in the next month attend a government meeting – your city council, the county commission, or the board of education – and become a little better informed about a local issue. Tell someone who works for your city or the county about something you’re pleased with. Maybe the pot hole you’d been dodging got filled or someone was especially helpful at the court house. Nobody likes hearing only complaints.

#### Reservations for March 21, 2013 Annual Meeting

 *Entrées: Chicken Milano, Chef’s Choice of Fish, or*

 *Vegetarian Pasta. All served with twice-baked*

*Name(s)* *Please include a phone number potato, salad, rolls, chocolate mousse cake*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Fish\_\_\_\_\_ Pasta\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Fish\_\_\_\_\_ Pasta\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Fish\_\_\_\_\_ Pasta\_\_\_\_\_

Cost: $25.00 per person. Make check payable to **LWVWC** and mail to:

**Marion Weiser, 1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104 to arrive by March 18. Running late? see page 1**

Page 3, March. 2013 *Voter*

**The Fight for the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA): "It's Now Up to Us**

**to See That It Gets Done"** by Elizabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

Originally posted on the Huffington Post 3/11/13

Last week, we announced that the League [filed an amicus brief](http://www.lwv.org/press-releases/second-pivotal-voting-rights-case-heads-supreme-court%3D) in the critical voting rights case, [*Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council (ITC)*](http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/arizona-v-the-inter-tribal-council-of-arizona-inc/). The case, which will be argued before the Supreme Court on Monday, March 18, could potentially gut the [National Voter Registration Act](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/nvra/activ_nvra.php) (NVRA), legislation the League helped pass in 1993. Commonly known as the "Motor Voter Act," the NVRA streamlined voter registration, making it easier for citizens to register to vote, and protecting against state restrictions on voter registration for federal elections.

If the Court rules against the NVRA, states would be free to pass laws that could restrict voter registration activities and thereby prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote.

The League [began working](http://library.lwv.org/content/league-and-nvra) on what would become the NVRA in 1988 in response to the widely divergent and confusing array of state laws that hindered voter registration. In 1989, the League began work to draft national legislation to require states to provide voter registration opportunities when citizens obtain a driver's license or seek government services at other public agencies, as well as provide for voter registration by mail, which is integral to citizen-led voter registration drives. Because of its importance in protecting the vote, the NVRA became a key priority of the work of both LWVUS and Leagues across the country. Members contacted their members of Congress in support of it, and even descended upon Capitol Hill to advocate for the legislation.

When the legislation that would eventually become the National Voter Registration Act was first introduced in 1989, the League was the only public interest group supporting it. The League launched a lobbying and media campaign, and in 1990 the national League helped create a national coalition to support the NVRA. The coalition, co-chaired first with the [ACLU](http://www.aclu.org/voting-rights/arizona-v-inter-tribal-council-arizona) and later with the [NAACP](http://www.naacp.org/), included Human SERVE/100% VOTE, MALDEF, the AFL-CIO, Rock the Vote, Disabled and Able to Vote and the National Urban League, among more than 60 others. Coalition members activated their own memberships, lobbied Congress, compiled essential information on voter registration in the states and provided technical assistance to members of Congress.

Throughout the campaign to pass the NVRA, LWVUS Presidents Nancy Neuman (1986-1990), Susan Lederman (1990-1992) and Becky Cain (1992-1998) testified before Congress in support of the legislation and consulted closely with its congressional leaders, Rep. Al Swift (D WA), Senator Wendell Ford (D KY) and Senator Mark Hatfield (R OR). Other national, state and local League leaders also spoke to groups across the country and worked to keep the need for the legislation in the public spotlight.

Throughout the campaign, we endured a number of setbacks, including being passed by both chambers of Congress in 1992 only to be vetoed by President George H.W. Bush. But in 1993, the years of concerted effort led by the League and the national coalition finally paid off. In January, the League helped reintroduce the NVRA legislations, congressional leaders vowed to make it a top priority, and newly inaugurated President Bill Clinton called it the nation's "newest civil rights bill." A few short months later, on May 20, 1993, LWVUS President Becky Cain stood behind President Clinton as he signed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) into law.

"The victory we celebrate," said Clinton, "is but the most recent chapter in the overlapping struggles of our nation's history to enfranchise women and minorities, the disabled and the young, with the power to affect their own destiny, and our common destiny, by participating fully in our democracy." Clinton went on to call the League a "fighter for freedom" in its efforts to bring the bill to his desk and presented League President Cain with a pen used to sign the historic legislation.

At the bill-signing ceremony, Clinton praised the NVRA supporters for what they had accomplished, but he also issued a challenge. "When we leave here today, we ought to say 'Every year, from now on, we're going to have more registered voters and more people voting.' We're going to make the system work. The law empowers us to do it. It's now up to us to see that it gets done."

Today, as the Supreme Court prepares to review Arizona v. ITC and potentially overturn key parts of the NVRA, these words ring truer than ever. The case puts the League's work of running independent voter registration drives at risk. The NVRA streamlined the myriad state laws that hindered voter registration and citizen-led registration drives, and a decision against the NVRA would leave the voter registration process vulnerable to new forms of political manipulation.



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

**Annual Meeting March 21**

*Make your reservation today*

March 2013 Voter

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $40 ($60 for 2 people at

one address) to the LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Dr.,

Parkersburg WV 26104 Write “dues” on the memo line.