# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net

Local *Voter:* Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

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

Mark Your Calendar

Monday, Feb. 23 Membership meeting

 Legislative Update – see below

Monday, Mar. 9 LWVWC Board Meeting 7 p.m.

 1360 Market St., Parkersburg

Tuesday, Mar. 24 Annual Meeting at J. P. Henry’s

 5106 Emerson Avenue, Parkersburg

Membership Meeting

Update on the Current Legislative Session – What are ***they*** doing? What can ***we*** do?

Monday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.

at Vienna Library

This will be an informal meeting where members can hear about issues of interest in the current legislative session. With changes in majorities and leadership in both houses, it has been a fast-moving session so far with some new priorities coming to the forefront.

Kathy Stoltz and Nancy Novak will lead discussion about the status of bills of League interest and talk about what League members can do to make their voices heard. Among the areas on which the has positions are election laws, environment, health care, and education.

The current legislative session ends at midnight on March 14.

If you haven’t used <http://www.legis.state.wv.us> before, you’ll find it quite user-friendly. The *Today at the Legislature* blog gives a daily report on actions in both houses.

To check on bills on a topic of interest to you, click on the Bill Status tab, then select Subject in the left-hand column.

WV public television broadcasts The Legislature today nightly at 6:30 p.m., repeated at 11:30p.m. and the next morning at 6:30 on radio.

Voter February 2015

LWVWC Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 24

 We’re trying something new this year, moving our annual meeting to J. P. Henry’s, where you can order what you want from the menu.

 Our guest speaker will be Cecil Childress, who was until recently the chairman of Downtown PKB, a program dedicated to promoting the historic and economic redevelopment of Downtown Parkersburg.

We’ve asked Mr. Childress to tell us about what he foresees as the future of the downtown area. He is general manager of the Blennerhassett Hotel and a columnist in The Parkersburg News & Sentinel, and reported to be an entertaining speaker.

Note the following about arrangements for the dinner.

* Be there at 5:45 and take seats in the banquet room. Servers will take your orders. A menu is enclosed so you can plan ahead.
* Diners will pay for their own meals. Note that for large parties like ours, an 18% gratuity will be included on your bill.
* After ordering, you can mingle and/or visit the bar. Dinners will be served about 6:30.
* In order to know how many to set tables for, please send names of those who will attend. to marionweiser@gmail.com. If you don’t have email, call her at 304-428-3608.
* Dinner and the speaker will be followed by a brief business meeting to elect officers, adopt a budget, and adopt local program. See proposed business items elsewhere in this Voter.

 The League has acquired several **DVD**’s in recent years for our movie meetings – Gasland, Gasland 2, The Last Mountain, Last Call at the Oasis. If you have any of them, please bring it to a meeting or return to a board member. If you missed the meeting and want to borrow one, contact the president. We plan to donate them to a local library to add to its video collection.

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**Local Program:**

**Proposed Local Program for 2015-16**

*To be voted on at annual meeting*

1. **ZONING**  Support sound zoning.
2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

 A. Oppose primaries in municipal elections, with certain exceptions.

 B. Support measures to facilitate annexation, upgrade city services, and improve the area’s appearance

 C. Support full implementation and continuation of the strong-mayor charter for the city of Parkersburg.

 D. Support clarification of mayoral appointive powers, creation of office of Mayoral Administrative Assistant, and an independent audit of city finances for the city of Parkersburg.

3. **EDUCATION**

 A. Support re-evaluation of the Wood County School System.

 B. Support measures to improve the financial structure of the Wood County School System.

4. **HEALTH SERVICES**

 A. Support adequate financing for mental health programs

 B. Support the idea that mental health services be delivered on a community level.

*Note: These are locally adopted positions, which*

*apply only in Wood County. Our local League is*

*bound by and operates under all state and*

*national League positions as well.*

**Nominating Committee Report**

 (Karen Campbell, Chair, Jean Grapes, Bernice Lemley)

*To be voted on at annual meeting*

President 2015-2017 Charmaine Dotson

1st V. President 2015-2017 Kathy Stoltz

Secretary 2015-2017 Mary Ann Layne

Director 2015-2017 Lydia Cobranchi

Director 2015-2017 Nancy Taylor

Director 2015-2017 Emily Grafton

Nominating Committee Chair 2015-2016, Karen Campbell

Nominating Committee Member 2015-2016, vacancy

Nominations can be made from the floor, provided you have the consent of the person nominated.

The following continue in office for another year.

2nd Vice-president (2014-16) Margaret Spransy

Treasurer (2014-16) Marion Weiser

Directors (2014-16) Jean Grapes, Judy Peascoe,

Additional directors may be appointed by the Board.

$$$$$ and Sense

A Note from the Treasurer about Dues

After many years at the same rate, it has become necessary to raise our dues. Our previous rate of $40 (individual) and $60 (household) per year did not cover our required per member payments of $31 to LWVUS and $11 to LWV WV for individual members and half those amounts for an additional member at the same address (household membership).

We have had to draw from savings for the overage and for all other expenses such as mailing the local Voter newsletter, publishing the public officials’ roster, doing the voter’s guide in the newspaper etc.

The new dues rates will be $45 for an individual member plus $25 for each additional member at the same address. If approved, they will become effective April 1 for the 2015-16 League year beginning on that date.

The board voted in January to present the increase to the membership for their approval. Members attending our annual meeting on March 24 will be asked to adopt the budget for 2015-16, which will approve the dues increase.

The board has been reluctant to make this move for several years, but now we must. We thank you for understanding.

Marion Weiser, Treasurer

See the proposed 2015-2016 budget on page 3.

 *Note that the $10 reduction for NEW members is still in effect and those joining before the annual meeting will pay only $30 for an individual membership, $50 for a two-person household membership. Now is the time to ask a friend to join.*

Governmental Officials Roster

An updated version is enclosed. If you have a use for additional copies, contact me.

Paperless Voter???

 Would you like to receive the Voter via email instead of in your mailbox? It about $5 a year per member to send paper copies. If enough ask for e-copies, it could add up to a noticeable savings in our small budget.

Yes, we’ve asked before, but the response was small and hardly worth making the extra effort, so we’re asking again. Even if you said yes before, please respond again and I will develop a list. Put Voter on the subject line.

Kathy Stoltz ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

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Happy Birthday to the League of Women Voters

This year, the League of Women Voters celebrates its 95th anniversary. Founded by [suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt](http://lwv.org/blog/10-inspiring-facts-about-league%E2%80%99s-founder-carrie-chapman-catt-0) on February 14, 1920 – just six months prior to passage of the 19th Amendment – [the League was charged with “finish[ing] the fight”](http://library.lwv.org/content/league-women-voters-through-decades) to ensure that every eligible voter has free and fair access to the polls. Ever since, the League has been at the forefront of efforts to empower citizens to play an active role in our democracy.

In honor of 95 years of Making Democracy Work ®, here are 10 ways the League has helped strengthen our democracy and ensure equality throughout the past century.

1. The [Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awmss5/wom_rights.html), a groundbreaking law providing federal funding for maternity and child care, was the League’s first major success.
2. Following World War II, [the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations](http://lwv.org/multimedia/league-women-voters-and-united-nations).
3. In 1952, the League joined NBC and Life magazine in sponsoring the first-ever televised U.S. presidential debate. We served as the [official presidential debate sponsor from 1976-1984](http://lwv.org/multimedia/league-and-presidential-debates). Today, Leagues across the country continue to sponsor candidate debates at the state and local levels.
4. McCarthyism and the witch hunt period of the 1950s [inspired the League to help educate Americans on their individual rights and liberties](http://lwv.org/content/league-women-voters-through-decades-1950s) as guaranteed by the Constitution. This work culminated when LWVUS President Percy Maxim Lee testified before Congress against Senator Joseph McCarthy's abuse of congressional investigative powers in 1955.
5. Between 1950 and 1970, the League increased its effectiveness in regard to both public education and advocacy, [prompting Senator George Aiken to remark](https://books.google.com/books?id=wuSPApv5V0wC&pg=PA247&lpg=PA247&dq=%E2%80%9COnly+135,000+of+them?+I+thought+there+were+millions.%E2%80%9D&source=bl&ots=OVMc7WS3BQ&sig=CsQg5BTyGOikcRQ8NQ_sPAdv6Xg&hl=en&sa=X&ei=Une5VO7iAbeSsQTYz4HwBA&ved=0CB4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%E2%80%9COnly%20135%2C000%20of%20them%3F%20I%20thought%20there%20were%20millions.%E2%80%9D&f=false), “Only 135,000 of them? I thought there were millions.”
6. Throughout the 70s and 80s, [passing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was a top League priority](http://lwv.org/content/equality-opportunity) at the national and state levels. The League organized the National Business Council (NBC) for ERA, the first formal structure to bring major business leaders into the fight for ratification.
7. In 1990s, the [League was at the forefront of the fight to pass the National Voter Registration Act](http://library.lwv.org/content/league-and-nvra), better known as Motor Voter. We even have President Clinton’s pen from the signing!
8. Following five years of campaigning, [the League helped pass the McCain-Feingold bill, better known as the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), in 2002](http://lwv.org/content/campaign-finance). The legislation closed the most significant loopholes in campaign finance regulation at the time, making historic strides in helping protect our nation’s elections from secret money.
9. In 2006, the League launched [VOTE411.org](http://www.vote411.org/), the go-to online resource for voter registration and elections-related information. In 2014, over 1.5 million people used [VOTE411.org](http://www.vote411.org/) to find the election information they needed to vote.
10. In 2014, [the League and our partners helped collect 8 million public comments](http://lwv.org/blog/thank-you-taking-action-fight-climate-change) encouraging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cut carbon pollution and fight climate change. We’re still pushing ahead in 2015.

Adapted from <http://lwv.org/blog/10-ways-league-women-voters-has-helped-improve-our-country>

LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

Membership Meeting Feb. 23

Legislative Update

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $45 (plus $25 for each additional

member at the same address) to the LWVWC Treasurer,

1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104

Write “dues” on the memo line.