# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cdye62@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

Thurs. March 31 LWVWC Annual Meeting

 J.P. Henry’s Restaurant

Monday, April 11, 12:30 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Pkbg/Wood County Library Board Room

Thursday, April 21 7:00 pm Pksbg City Building

 Meet the Candidates for Board of Education

Tuesday May 10 Primary Election Day

**Meet the Candidates**

The League will host a Meet the Candidate event for candidates for Wood County Board of Education on **April 21** at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers

on the 2nd floor of the Parkersburg City Building.

Please help us spread the word by telling your friends, mentioning it on Facebook, and telling other groups to which you belong.

This is the final election for the Board of Education. Two seats will be on the ballot. Voters may elect one from each of districts A and B, or two from District B.

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Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action will hold an event for state office candidates on Thursday, April 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the Parkersburg City Building.

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The League’s **Voter’s Guide** will be published in the Parkersburg News & Sentinel on Sunday, April 17. Candidates for all local and state offices on the primary ballot have been invited to submit a brief biography and replies to League questions.

 Voter March 2016

 **Annual Meeting**

 Plan now to join us for the LWVWC’s annual meeting. It will be held on Thursday, March 31 at J.P. Henry’s Restaurant, 5106 Emerson Avenue, Parkersburg.

Plan to arrive by 5:45p.m. and order from the menu.\* The room is to the right as you enter. Get a beverage from the bar if you wish and mingle. Meals will be served at about 6:30.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Fletcher Lamkin, President of WVU-P. Dr. Lamkin received his bachelor’s degree from the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, a master’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley, and his PhD from the University of Washington. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College.

Prior to coming to WVU-P, Dr. Lamkin has served as president or vice-president at colleges and universities in MO, KS, and CA, and as faculty and academic dean at West Point. He also was a consultant in higher education.

A brief business meeting will follow Dr. Lamkin’s remarks. See agenda items elsewhere in the Voter.

**Your guests are welcome**

**In order to allow us to give J.P. Henry’s a head count, please call or email Marion Weiser and tell her how many will attend.**

 **304-428-3608** **RMweiser@suddenlink.net****.**

***\*****To check the menu ahead of time, go to:*

<https://www.facebook.com/jphenrys/app/117784394919914/?ref=page_internal>

*I was able to access this even though I am not signed up for Facebook.*

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Annual Meeting Business

Every year we elect half of our officers and directors, adopt local program, and adopt a budget.

**Report of the Nominating Committee:**

2016-18     2nd Vice President  - Margaret Spransy

2016-18     Treasurer - Marion Weiser

Directors:

2016-18        Jean Grapes

                      Judy Peascoe

                      Jane Burdette

2016-17         Karen Barry (finishing unexpired term)

2016-17         Nancy Novak (finishing unexpired term)

Nominating committee to be announced.

**Proposed Local Program for 2016-17**

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.*

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**e-Voter**

A home run – You can receive the Voter sooner, save a tree (well, a twig), save the League a little postage, and save the editor a bit of labor by getting it via email. To get on the e-Voter list, send an email to ksstoltz@suddenlink.net with Voter on the subject line.

**Proposed Budget 2016-17**

 FY 16-17

INCOME

 Dues, members 1280

 Contributions, members 100

 Contributions, non-members 0

 Miscellaneous 10

 From Reserves 593

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 1983

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Expense

 President 50

 Speaker gifts 20

 Secretary of State fee 25

 Other (blank checks) 0

Program and Activities

 Publications, Voter, roster, copier 300

 Voter Service 250

 Membership meetings, travel 40

 Annual Meeting (speaker) 40

Delegates

 LWVWV Convention/Council 50

LWV Dues

 Per member payment, LWV US 900

 Per member payment, LWV WV 308

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 1983

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Dues

The League’s budget year runs from April 1 to March 31. Thus dues for the coming year are due as of April 1. Dues are $45 for one member, $25 more for each additional member at the same address, checks payable to LWVWC.

Bring your check to the annual meeting and the treasurer won’t have to send you a notice or reminders.

Or mail to LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Drive, Parkersburg WV 26104.

LWVUS has put together a slide show “Celebrating Women’s History Month with Pictures from Our Archives”

View it at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Look for Becky Cain Ceperly celebrating the passage of Motor Voter in 1993 when Becky, from Charleston WV, was LWVUS president.

**WV Legislature** (as of 3/15)

What did they do – and not do?

The League’s priorities were:

▪ Reforms of the WV tax system that are broadly based, rely on diverse revenue sources, provide an adequate, stable yield, and treat taxpayers equitably.

▪ Strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including independent expenditures and election-related communications.

▪ Measures that encourage investment in energy efficiency in West Virginia’s homes, businesses, and industries.

▪ Expanding the availability of services for people who need treatment for mental illness or substance abuse.

A total of 1896 bills were introduced, of which 276 passed both houses of the Legislature.

Note that many bills are awaiting the governor’s action. During the session, the Governor has five days to act on a bill. Once the session has ended, he has 15 days to act on most bills. The Legislature is unlikely to be able to override a veto of a bill passed late in the session.

With the **budget** unbalanced, apparently the legislature has taken a timeout until the Governor calls them back into session, giving them time to find a way to adopt a balanced budget by the end of June. It turns out that the imbalance is more than $90 million greater than the anticipated (now almost $239 million) because the tax increases requested by the Governor were not adopted, tax revenues are down, and no one could figure out a plan to make ends meet that was acceptable to both houses.

Starting in 2018, West Virginia will be a **Voter ID** state. **HB 4013** is a bitter pill with a couple of sweeteners that make it less unpalatable. It does allow a lengthy list of acceptable forms of ID, ranging from a federal or state issued photo ID to a utility bill, a Medicare card, or a friend or poll worker vouching that you’re who you say you are.

In a surprisingly progressive move, it makes voter registration automatic when applying for or renewing a driver’s license at the DMV unless the applicant declines.

HB 4013 awaits the Governor’s action. He’s indicated that he’s inclined to sign it. *One senator described it as a decent solution to a non-existent problem.*

 Several other tweaks were made to **election laws.** Bills passed specifying procedures for filling vacancies when a candidate withdraws (signed by Governor) and when there is a vacancy in a judicial office (awaiting Governor’s action). **SB 591** allows the Secretary of State to use DMV information to assist in maintaining up-to-date voter registration rolls (awaiting Governor’s action).

**HB 2588** requires that candidate file their financial reports electronically (awaiting Governor’s action). This would make it feasible that information on campaign donors and spending could be made more accessible to voters. Nothing was done to limit campaign donations or increase donor disclosure. **HB 4587** sets penalties for violations in handling of absentee ballots (awaiting Governor’s action).

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 **HB 4053** died on the final night. This was a DEP rules bill covering an assortment of environmental concerns. DEP has to have rules to enforce and WV risks action from the EPA if fails to meet certain standards.

 Dominating headlines, particularly during the early part of the session, were passage of **SB 1,** the WV Workplace Freedom Act (right to work), vetoed by the Governor, veto overridden by the Legislature: **SB 6**, passage of drug testing for TANF recipients if there is “reasonable suspicion of substance abuse”, awaiting Governor’s action; **SB 10**, Unborn Child Protection, outlawing except in a medical emergency what is often the preferred procedure for a second trimester abortion, vetoed by the Governor, veto overridden by the Legislature;

**HB 4005**, repealing prevailing wage requirements, vetoed by the Governor, veto overridden by the Legislature;

**HB 4014** preventing the State Board of Education from implementing common core academic standards and assessments (but allowing teaching that human activity affects climate change), awaiting Governor’s action;

**HB 4145** relating to carry or use of a handgun or deadly weapon (no permit needed by those over 21 to conceal carry), vetoed by the Governor, veto overridden by the Legislature; **SB 298** allowing restaurants and private clubs and wineries to sell alcoholic beverages after 10 a.m. (current law is 1:00 p.m.) on Sundays if approved by a county-wide referendum, awaiting Governor’s action.

 The Governor has already signed **HB 4540**, which makes it legal to dispose of electronics in landfills, except when a Solid Waste Authority forbids it because an affordable recycling option is available. **HB 3019** requires that official business and records of the state and its political subdivisions be conducted in English.

 The following bills are awaiting the Governor’s action: **SB 338** details the compiling and maintaining the Central State Mental Health Registry, specifying which mental health commitments disqualify one from obyaining a firearm. **HB 4364** The Internet Privacy Act spells out rights to protect one’s electronic personal information when applying for employment. **HB 4225** codifies the right to display the phrase “In God We Trust” and the POW-MIA flag in public buildings.

 The Legislature adopted **HCR 36,** a resolution that calls for a constitutional convention of the states with the goal of adding a balanced budget amendment to the U. S. Constitution. The US has never held such a convention and the scope of such a convention and rules under it would be conducted are unknown. WV is the 28th state of the 34 required to petition Congress to call a convention.

 The vast majority of the other 170 resolutions adopted this session were to name roads or bridges, honor individuals or organizations, name days or months to recognize a cause or condition, thus we know that a bridge

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in Monongalia County shall be known as the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Bridge, that April 16 will be World Voice Day, and that the Outstanding Logger of the Year has been duly honored.

 Resolutions are not subject to action by the Governor.

 Most are aware that the “Religious Freedom Restoration Act” failed earlier in the session. After it passed the House, the Senate amended the bill to allow local anti-discrimination ordinances to remain in effect. With the sides unable to reach a compromise, the bill died.

 To follow up on bills awaiting the Governor’s signature or veto, to read a bill or see its history as it went through the process, or to look up how particular lawmakers voted on it, go to the Bill Status section of [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us).



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

**Annual Meeting March 31 at J. P. Henry’s**

**Meet the Candidates for Bd. Of Ed. April 21**

**March 2016 Voter**

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.

Cookies and courage…..

 A bill that didn’t pass provided an example of courage in the House of Delegates. Debate was over a bill increasing the penalties for transporting drugs across state lines into WV (HB 4576). Originally it applied to heroin and cocaine. The House Judiciary Committee amended it to include marijuana. Some questioned why, when other states were liberalizing laws about marijuana, WV would make its penalties more severe.

Del. Bill Flanigan of Monongalia County (appointed to fill a vacancy and not running for a full term) rose to inquire whether this meant that someone bringing marijuana-laced cookies into the state could face up to 15 years in prison. The answer was yes. The delegate then recounted his own struggle with cancer and how prescribed, potentially addictive, pain medication and anti-nausea drugs killed his appetite and made him fearful of becoming drug dependent. Someone “dear to” him brought him some “special” chocolate chip cookies from another state. His appetite restored, he gained weight, and the rest of the prescribed drugs went unused. The Senate then voted to table the bill, which went no further.

The delegate’s speech can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsKim3tJYbI&feature=youtu.be&t=5h28m15s>