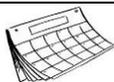


League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cdye62@suddenlink.net
Local Voter: Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net
LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

March 2017



Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, March 28 6 p.m. LWVWC Annual Meeting
Colombo's Restaurant – see below

Monday, April 10, 12:30 pm LWVWC Board meeting
Wood County Library

May 6 LWVWC will host the League's state
convention. Plan to attend.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting this year will be held at Colombo's Restaurant on Tuesday evening, March 28 at 6 p.m. for a brief business meeting, followed by dinner, ordered from the menu. After dinner we'll have conversation and discussion. Spouses and guests are welcome.



We're trying a less formal meeting this year. When we have a speaker, people don't get much chance to talk and share ideas. We're hoping for some conversation this year about what the League should do next, what kind of programs members want, how to get more people involved, and that members will enjoy the chance to talk to each other.

In order to have the room set up for the right number, we'll need to have a head count. If you plan to attend, please email Charmaine Dotson and let her know. cdye62@suddenlink.net or call 304-428-1076.

See pages 2 & 3 for items to be voted on at the annual meeting.

Special Dues Rate for New Members

Thanks to a grant from the state League, dues for **new** members of the LWVWC will be \$25 for their first year of membership, now through March 2018.

This is a good time to invite someone to attend the annual meeting and ask them to join.

WV LEGISLATURE

A total of 1730 bills have been introduced, the deadline for new bills has passed in the House and is March 20 in the Senate. Bills must be reported out of committee by March 26 and the last day for bills to be considered on 3rd reading in the house of origin in March 29.

Thus the time is approaching that bills not yet reported out of committee will go no farther and the pace of action in committees and in the House and Senate will speed up. There are exceptions for certain kinds of bills and sometimes the requirement of reading of a bill on 3 separate days is suspended.

Adjournment is at midnight on April 8, with an extended session for considering the budget likely.

Follow the Legislature at: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>. Read the Blog, watch live streaming, check on bill status, link to a legislator's email, see committee minutes and agendas, and more.

Public television's **The Legislature Today** is on at 6:30 p.m., repeated at 11:30 p.m. weeknights.

Look for The Capitol Eye reports from Citizen Action Group: <http://wvcag.org/>. Their lobbyists are at the Capitol daily. For environmental issues, check www.ohvec.org.

Some bills of interest (status of bills may have changed):

HB 2781, would replace the liberal Voter ID requirements set to go into effect in 2018 with very strict ones, and repeal the provision for automatic voter registration. It is still in the House Judiciary Committee. The subcommittee appointed to consider its financial effects has met once and will likely meet again early next week. The League strongly opposes this bill. Watch for action alerts.

SB 60 & HB 2132 Imposes work requirements on some recipients of SNAP benefits (food stamps). LWV opposes this as there are areas in which there very few work opportunities exist and people should not go hungry because they cannot meet this requirement. Both bills are in committee.

HB 2506 LWV opposes this because it changes the way limits on discharge of toxins into waterways are calculated and allows more pollution. In committee.

HB2744 LEEP (Local Energy Efficiency Partnership) is a funding mechanism commercial building owners can use to make their buildings more efficient and pay for the upgrades on their tax ticket. The upgrades are funded by privately held bonds that are backed by the energy savings, so no county or state revenue is involved. LWV supports this bill. Currently in House Finance Committee.

HB 2811 Greatly expands the list of tanks exempt from current Aboveground Storage Tank Act. LWV opposes.

HB 2319 passed the House early in the session and has been in Senate Judiciary Committee since. It would require that campaign events held during a legislative session be subject to disclosure rules.

HB 2346 to prohibit electioneering during early voting periods in and around early voting locations to the same extent as is currently prohibited at polling places on election day. Passed the House, now in Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 2646 to abolish the WV Women’s Commission passed the House, currently in Senate Government Organization Committee.

HB 2798 would forbid a person who is registered and affiliated with a recognized political party from becoming a candidate for political office by virtue of the nomination certificate process, i.e. as an independent. On first reading 3/17 with Judiciary Committee recommendation that it pass. (Prevents a person who lost a primary election from then running independently)

SB 255 has passed the Senate. It clarifies that a person appointed to fill a vacancy in an office must be from the same party as the person who vacated the office at the time it was vacated. (Covers situations when the office holder has changed parties since he or she was elected.)

And, just for fun, one that makes one wonder how this issue happened to come before the Legislature:

SB 473 clarifies the circumstances in which naturally shed deer antlers may be lawfully collected, possessed and sold and to clarify that certain wildlife or parts thereof cannot be traded or bartered. Passed Senate, pending in committee in the House.

Parkersburg Non-discrimination Ordinance

The League was represented at the March 14 Parkersburg City Council meeting where Lydia Cobranchi spoke on behalf of the LWVWC in favor of the non-discrimination ordinance that was being considered.

This is what the WV Human Rights Act says now: *Equal opportunity in the areas of employment and public accommodations is hereby declared to be a human right or civil right of all persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, blindness or disability.*

It is important to note that the proposed ordinance includes language stating that places of public accommodation do **not** include “any accommodations which are in their nature private.” A nondiscrimination ordinance would simply add “sexual orientation and gender identity” to the classes already protected under WV law.

Council chambers and the lobby area were packed with people, many of whom opposed the ordinance. Despite the fact that originally a majority of the council members had sponsored the ordinance, some changed their minds and the item was tabled. We don’t know if or when it might be taken up again in its original or in an amended form.

Proposed Local Program for 2017-18

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.

Election of Officers/Directors

To be voted on at annual meeting

President	2017-19	Charmaine Dotson
1 st Vice President	2017-19	Kathy Stoltz
Secretary	2017-19	Mary Ann Layne

Directors	2017-19	Lydia Cobranchi
	2017-19	Karen Barry
	2017-19	Nancy Novak

Nominating Committee to be announced
The other officers’ and directors’ terms expire in 2018.



Mark your calendar for May 16. The League will host a presentation by the WV Center on Budget and Policy entitled “Why Is West Virginia So Poor?” It will be open to the public.

The center’s web site: <http://www.wvpolicy.org/>

Proposed Budget 2017-18

To be voted on at annual meeting

INCOME

Dues, members	1200
Contributions, members	100
Contributions, non-members	0
Miscellaneous	10
From Reserves	<u>475</u>
	1785

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Expense	
President	50
Speaker gifts	20
Secretary of State fee	25
Other (memorial)	0
Program and Activities	
Publications, Voter, roster, copier	300
Voter Service	40
Membership meetings, travel	40
Annual Meeting (speaker)	40
Delegates	
LWVWV Convention/Council	0
LWV Dues	
Per member payment, LWV US	950
Per member payment, LWV WV	<u>320</u>
	1785

March is Women's History Month

? Did you know ?

- WV was the 34th state to ratify the 19th Amendment on March 10, 1920
- Tennessee was the 36th state to ratify and last needed vote to adopt the amendment when a young formerly anti-suffrage representative obeyed his mother's admonition and voted aye, the deciding vote.
- Between 1910 and 1918, the Alaska Territory, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota and Washington had all extended voting rights to women.
- Mississippi was the last state to formally ratify the amendment in 1984, 64 years after it became part of the US Constitution.

From LWVUS

Take Action: Save Healthcare

^{FY}The House has introduced its plan to replace the Affordable Care Act. The legislation has already moved through the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees. The *American Health Care Act* is un-American. It will increase costs for seniors and those with pre-existing conditions, while slashing assistance for lower-income households in obtaining coverage. It will also threaten the essential care that women need. Tell your Representative that means that there will be fewer people covered, weaker protections and higher costs for Americans.

League Joins Letter in Opposition of ACA Repeal, Defunding of Planned Parenthood

The League joined women's groups on a letter opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and defunding Planned Parenthood. The letter went to the majority and minority leaders in the U.S House and Senate.

League Sends Memo to U.S. House Opposing Election Assistance Commission Termination Act

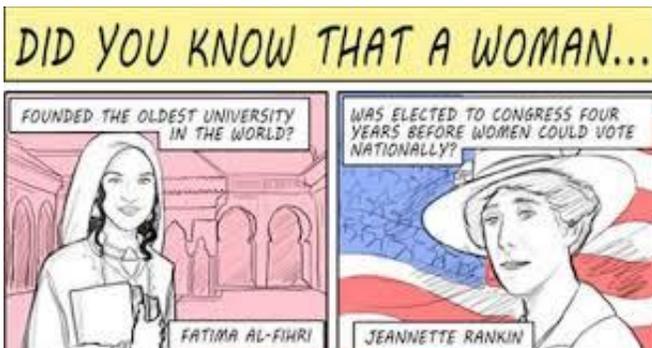
The League sent a memo to members of the U.S. House regarding HR 634, the Election Assistance Commission Termination Act. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is the only federal entity devoted exclusively to improving election administration on a bipartisan basis. The League does not believe terminating the EAC is warranted and urges the Committee on House Administration not to report this legislation. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will also be addressing this with select House offices.

LWVWV

The state League's **convention** will be held Saturday, May 6 at the Comfort Suites in Mineral Wells from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch is provided. It's a chance to hear what the state board has been doing, meet and talk to members from other parts of the state.

The guest speaker will be Renate Pore, Interim Executive Director, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care and Chair of the Medicaid Coalition. She will speak on the future of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) in West Virginia.

If you can be one of our local delegates, contact Charmain Dotson at cdye62@suddenlink.net or call 304-428-1076.





LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 28
Colombo's Restaurant

Membership in the LWV is open to all.
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.