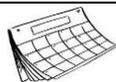


League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

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

May 2017



Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, May 16 7:00 p.m. "Why is WV so Poor?"
Judge Black Annex – see below

Monday, June 5 12 noon All members are invited to meet for lunch at Shoney's on Garfield Avenue, near CCMH Medical Center. – see below

Why is West Virginia so Poor?



Why is a state so rich in resources so often at the bottom of so many lists that rank states on everything from happiness to educational achievement. The lead domino that tips over many of the others is poverty. It's been true for decades and never seems to get better.

To explore how the state got this way and what can be done to improve conditions, we've invited Sean O'Leary, a Senior Policy Analyst with the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, to speak in Parkersburg. Local mayors, council members, county commissioners, and legislators have been invited to attend.

Tuesday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Judge Black Annex, Parkersburg

Across from the Blennerhassett Hotel

This event is **open to the public**.

We hope to raise awareness and stir some discussion about what decisions at every level have kept a state so rich in resources from providing a better life for so many of its residents.

The **June 5 lunch** will be informal (no speaker), but we hope to have some conversation about what programs League members would like this fall and hear some suggestions.



Special Dues Rate for New Members

Thanks to a grant from the state League, dues for **new members only** are \$25 for their first year of membership. Ask a friend to join.

If you've already paid your 2017-18 dues, THANK YOU.

A current membership list is enclosed, or attached if you receive the Voter by email. Please note the caveat about its use.

LWVWV State Convention

The following LWVWV officers and directors (Portfolio) were elected at the League's state convention on May 6.

President Jonathan Rosenbaum, Morgantown (Website)

First Vice-President Helen Gibbins, Huntington (Natural Resources)

Second Vice-President Nancy Deming, Fairmont *(Health Care)

Secretary Nancy Novak, Wood County

Treasurer Teresa Koon, Charleston *(Voter Editor, Roster Manager)

Director Julie Archer *, Lincoln County **

Director Lydia Cobranchi, Wood County (Voters Service)

Director Vicki Conner *, Morgantown

Director Shirley Rosenbaum, Morgantown (Membership, Education)

Director Kathy Stoltz, Wood County (State Gov't, Election Laws)

*New to the board, portfolio to be determined

** LWVWV Members at Large

Lisa Diehl, Northern Regional Coordinator for West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, spoke about the dire implications for WV if the Affordable Care Act is replaced by a plan like the one passed by the US House last week. That plan would leave thousands of West Virginians without affordable health care and increase costs for others while cutting taxes on the wealthy.

Action needed: Contact Senators Manchin and Capito and urge them to reject the House's Trumpcare bill.

Senator Joseph Manchin III (Democrat)

303 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington D. C. 20510

phone (202) 224-3954, fax (202) 228-0002

Charleston office: Toll free from WV (855) 275-5737

Charleston office fax (304) 343-7144

Web site: www.manchin.senate.gov

Senator Shelley Moore Capito (Republican)

5 Russell Senate Courtyard

Washington D.C. 20510

phone (202) 224-6472

Charleston office phone (304) 347-5372,

Web site: www.capito.senate.gov

VETOED: Note that Governor Justice vetoed some of the bills mentioned in the April *Voter* and discussed at our April 24 meeting. Vetoed: the bill that would have eliminated the WV Women's Commission, the bill requiring that a person appointed to fill a vacancy in an office must be from the same party as the person vacating the office at the time it was vacated, the bill expanding home rule option to all WV municipalities, and the bill that allowed home schooled students to participate in public school sports and extracurricular activities.

Sometimes a win comes through the back door: Two bills were passed that affected water quality. Apparently the second one passed kept the standards that the first one would have lowered, allowing more water pollution. Thus the original stricter standards remain in effect, at least for now.

BUDGET: After a brief and unproductive special session, WV still has no budget for the fiscal year starting July 1. The Governor and the Senate appear to have compromised on some spending cuts and added revenue sources, while the House insists that the budget be balanced by cutting expenditures alone.

As noted in the column cited below, over the last decade, WV tax revenues have been cut by \$425 million a year. Sales tax on food and the state business franchise tax were eliminated. The corporate net tax was reduced. As in other states that cut taxes on businesses, new businesses did not flock to the state to make up for the lost revenue. A step that helped low income families, elimination of the sales tax on food, may return in the yet-to-be-adopted budget.

Action needed: Contact legislators and tell them you want the bickering to stop, and that all parties must be willing to compromise on a plan that does not put an unfair burden on those least able to afford it. See list at right.

(I highly recommend Phil Kabler's May 6 column in the Gazette-Mail titled "Statehouse Beat: Questions and Answers About the Budget." If you're not a subscriber, it's worth using one of the 10 free 'reads' allowed monthly.
www.wvgazettemail.com

The legislature will convene for its second special session on May 15. Contact them at home before then, at the Capitol starting May 15.

All phone numbers area code 304 unless listed otherwise

State Senate, Third District Capitol Office↓
Donna J. Boley (Republican) Room 206W
2337 Greens Run Rd. 357-7905
St. Marys WV 26170
684-3266 email: donna.boleym@wvsenate.gov

Mike Azinger (Republican) Room 223W
1007 51st Street 357-7970
Vienna WV 26105
916-2177 email: mike.azinger@wvsenate.gov

House of Delegates

Dist. (home)↓) Capitol Office↓
8th Bill Anderson (Republican) Room 200E
1011 Highland Ave. 340-3210
Williamstown WV 26187
375-7880 email: bill.anderson@wvhouse.gov

9th Ray Hollen (Republican) Room 224E
262 Hales Landing 340-3136
Elizabeth WV 26143
681-485-1145 email: ray.hollen@wvhouse.gov

10th Vernon Criss (Republican) Room 224E
PO Box 1652 340-3202
Parkersburg WV 26104
481-0167 email: vernon.criss@wvhouse.gov

Frank Deem (Republican) Room 276M
5518 2nd Avenue 340-3137
Vienna WV 26105
295-6593 email: frank.deem@wvhouse.gov

John Kelly (Republican) Room 221E
2802 Brookview St. 340-3394
Parkersburg WV 26104
428-2846 email: john.kelly@wvhouse.gov

There will be no *Voter* in June or July.

 LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

May16 Why is West Virginia so Poor?

June 5 Lunch at Shoney's

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.