

Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters Newsletter

March 2010

Party and Film Will Celebrate LWV's 90th Birthday

Calendar

April 11 Sunday	LWV 90th Birthday Celebration 3:30 p.m. Aull Center, Morgantown Public Library
April 17 Saturday	LWVWV Board Meeting, Luncheon, & Council 10:00 a.m. Days Hotel, Flatwoods
April 21 Wednesday	Spring Candidates' Forum 7:00 p.m. Cowan Hall, Suncrest United Methodist Church
April 29 Thursday	Board of Education Candidates' Forum 7:00 p.m. South Middle School Auditorium
May 8 Saturday	Annual Luncheon Meeting Noon [More information in April newsletter]
May 11 Tuesday	Election Day: Primary elections Board of Education elections Conservation District elections

On **Sunday, April 11** the Morgantown/Monongalia County League will join more than 850 state and local leagues across the country who will be marking the 90th birthday of the League of Women Voters this year.

The Morgantown celebration, that **will begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Aull Center next to the Morgantown Public Library**, will feature a showing of the 2004 Emmy-nominated film *Iron Jawed Angels*. The movie follows political activists Alice Paul (played by Hilary Swank) and Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), who band together with other fiery young suffragettes to work nationally for passage of the 19th Constitutional Amendment that granted women the right to vote.

The film depicts their tactics, such as direct protesting of a wartime president and picketing outside the White House, and their hunger strike when arrested (thus the film's title: *Iron Jawed Angels*).

Of special interest to League members may be the depiction of the relationship between this young group of suffragists and older more established advocates of women's rights, such as Carrie Chapman Catt (played by Anjelica Huston), as well as the relationships between women's rights organizations that resulted. Catt, for example, was instrumental in the creation of the League of Women Voters on February 14, 1920.

The meeting is co-sponsored by West Virginia University's Women's Studies Program and the public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Two Candidates' Forums

April 21

April 29

Candidates' Forum May Help May 11th Decisions

The public will have the opportunity to compare local candidates for the House of Delegates, the State Senate, the County Commission, and the office of Conservation District Supervisor at the first Candidates' Forum on **April 21 at 7:00 p.m. in Cowan Hall at Suncrest United Methodist Church.**

All candidates for these offices, who will be vying to be selected on Election Day, May 11th, have been invited to participate. The evening will begin with candidates for each office being given an opportunity for brief introductory remarks; this will be followed by a question and answer session. Afterwards candidates will be available to speak one-to-one with attendees during an informal time.

The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served. At right is a list of the local candidates for these offices whose names will appear on the May 11th ballot. While this is predominantly a "primary election," the outcome of several races are "final."

Board of Education Candidates Meet April 29

A forum for Board of Education candidates will be held at **7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at South Middle School on Thursday, April 29.**

Three positions on the Monongalia County Board of Education will be filled by the May 11th election. Seven people have filed as candidates for these positions. Their names are listed at right.

Local Fundraising Effort Launched

Annual membership dues paid by local chapter members do not completely cover the chapter's substantial required contribution to the state and national League organizations. (Local dues: \$40/ Required donation per member to state and national organizations: \$40.20) Obviously, additional donations are required to sustain our work .

The Board has launched an effort to contact potential

Candidates

House of Delegates, 44th District

Democrats:

Tony Barill
Charlie Byrer
Stephen Cook
Barbara Fleischauer
Shelby Leary
Charlene Marshall

Republicans:

James Austin
Amanda Pasdon
Kevin Patrick Jr.
Kevin Poe
Chris Walters

State Senate

Democrats:

Bob Beach
Ron Justice

Republicans:

Cindy Frich

County Commission

Democrats:

Bob Bell
Eldon Callen

Conservation District Supervisor

Republicans:

Mark Myers
Kent Leonhardt

Board of Education

Western:

Mike Kelly
Donna Tennant
Rebecca Myers
Harry Bertram

Central:

Clarence Harvey
Barbara Parsons Schaupp
Horace Belmear

donors, especially past donors and businesses in the community, to assist our organization. Without donations, our local League would not be able to continue the important services that it provides to the community.

Please consider a donation to our local League. Some people choose to honor the memory of a loved one. For example, this year our League has received a donation

In memory of Margaret Spencer

History of the League

Excerpts from the National LWV Website

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA). The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed the creation of a League to “finish the fight” and to work to end all discrimination against women. While initially concerned with the status and rights of women, the League of Women Voters gradually expanded its interests to include issues affecting the whole community. Today, the League works to effect change on a variety of issues including health care, climate change, election and campaign finance reforms, land use and education.

The League began as a “mighty political experiment” designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

“The women who fought for voting rights in the first part of the 20th century did not know if they would be successful,” said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. “And yet they persevered – changing our democracy and society.”

Death of Bert Cohen

We have received word that the first fifty year member of the local league, Bert Cohen, passed away March 8th.

Bert moved to Morgantown in 1946 and lived here until recent years when she and her husband Milt moved to Rochester, New York to be nearer family members.

Bert was an accomplished pianist and an elementary school teacher before coming to Morgantown. Here she went on to become a parent and homemaker, and, then, the longtime proprietor, with her husband Milt, of Sidler’s Fashions, a Morgantown landmark that sold clothes, nurse’s uniforms, sports wear and lingerie to many women in the area.

For many League members, Bert will be best remembered for her faithful participation in and dedication to the activities of the local League, her thoughtful contributions to its discussions, and her other cultural and political activities in the community.

On the Next Page . . .

On the back of this page is a list of members of the Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters and their contact information. Sharing this list internally facilitates communication among our members. Please use it only to make personal contacts.

If you have not paid this year’s dues, your name will not be on the list. If you believe that you are a member but your name is not there, or if your personal information is incorrect, please contact Lyndell Millecchia (304-599-0904). If there are additions or changes to the list, we will include that information in the next newsletter.

If you wish to become a member of the League, dues are \$40 for an individual and \$60 for a household. Checks should be made to *LWV Morgantown-Monongalia County* and should be mailed to:

Lyndell Millecchia
476 Lawnview Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505