

Morgantown-Monongalia County League of Women Voters Newsletter

March 2012

Candidate Forums - April 11 & 25! League Members Please Attend!

We will be sponsoring two public candidate forums in April for the Primary Election. The first forum will be held **April 11, 7-9 p.m.** at Suncrest United Methodist Church on Van Voorhis Road, for candidates running for **Monongalia County Assessor** and the **House of Delegates**. Five candidates are running for the assessor position, one Republican, Kent Pauley, and four Democrats, Jim DeVincent, John W. Laurita, Mark Musick and Steve Siegarth. There is no incumbent in this race. Monongalia County gained one more seat in the House of Delegates from redistricting this year and now will have five House seats. Democrats running for the House are incumbents Tony Barill, Barbara Evans Fleischauer and Charlene Marshall, as well as first-time candidates Nancy Jamison and Billy Smerka Jr. All five will be on the ballot in the fall. Six Republicans are vying for the five Republican general election ballot positions. They are incumbent Amanda Pasdon and five others: Michael Castle, former Delegate Cindy Frich, Kevin Scott Poe, Jay Redmond and John P. Woods. The candidates will be given time to introduce themselves, give their qualifications and reasons for running. There will be questions for the candidates from the audience, followed by refreshments and time to talk individually to the candidates.

The second candidate forum will be held **April 25, 7-9 p.m.** at Suncrest United Methodist Church on Van Voorhis Road for candidates running for **Mon County Magistrate** and **County Commission**. For information call Catherine Lozier at 304-599-8233.

Calendar

Every month Board Meeting at **7 pm**. Please
1st Wednesday join us! Info - call 304-599-2370.

IMPORTANT: *The next Board Meeting for the Morgantown LWV will be held Wednesday, April 4. We will meet at Paneras.*

April 11 Candidate Forum, **7-9 pm**, at
Wednesday Suncrest United Methodist
Church, 479 Van Voorhis Road.

April 25 Candidate Forum, **7-9 pm**, at
Wednesday Suncrest United Methodist
Church.

Natural Resources Report

On December 14, 2011, the Natural Gas Horizontal Well Control Act, H.B. 401 was passed. While the bill is generally considered a watered-down version of the bill crafted in the special session, it does have some strong points. Consider the "§22-6A-21 - Establishment of public website information and electronic notification registry regarding horizontal well permit applications" in which the DEP was required to set up the website within 90 days of passage of the bill. Like clockwork, the Office of Oil and Gas fulfilled this requirement literally within less than 36 hours of the deadline on March 13 at the stroke of midnight. This is an exciting development for the public because we can now monitor new horizontal well permit

applications via their OOG email list, and send in comments via a handy website interface. We recently discovered a well permit application for public comment in the region of a Tier 3 stream; we alerted the people in the area and they are now taking action. Actions can include submitting comments and requesting a public information meeting or a public hearing. While the new system does not include the ability to download the actual permit application, you can purchase a copy for \$15.00. If your water supply well lies within 1,500 feet of the center of the proposed well pad, you will automatically receive a copy. **Please become a watchdog!**

See <http://www.dep.wv.gov/oil-and-gas/Horizontal-Permits>

On February 20th, we attended the Extractive Industry Workshop arranged by the Morgantown Planning Commission. Since then we have been busy working on crafting recommendations to submit regarding the contemplated language for a possible new oil and gas extraction zoning ordinance.

Good sites to visit

<http://wv4mom.org> (WV for Moratorium on Marcellus)
<http://marcellus-wv.com> (educational)
<http://news.marcellus-wv.com> (news from the media)

Social Sites

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/marcelluswv>
<http://www.facebook.com/groups/stopthefracking>

Updated Guide to Government Officials...

is now available, thanks to Clay Pytlik and Nancy Treat! If anyone wants copies to distribute to businesses, individuals, public agencies, contact Nancy Treat, (304) 594-2229.

Our Website

Point your web browser to <http://lwvwwv.org> and find Morgantown in Categories.

Make sure to submit your Storybank stories to Jonathan Rosenbaum at <http://lwvwwv.org/contact>.
Examples: <http://www.lwvwwv.org/category/league-of-women-votes-of-wv/my-story/>

LWVWV has a Facebook page. Please like it! Do a Google or Facebook search for "League of Women Voters of West Virginia".



If You Haven't Paid Your Dues...

If your name does not appear on the March member directory, we did not receive your dues. Dues are \$44 for an individual and \$66 for a household. Dues received at any time in 2012 ensure membership until the end of **2013**. Contributions are always welcome! Checks should be made to **LWV Morgantown-Mon County** and should be mailed to:

Lyndell Millecchia
476 Lawnview Drive
Morgantown, WV 26505

We welcome new members **Hope Covey, John and Nancy Ganz, Doanda Little, Don Spencer, and Donna Tennant** to the League