# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@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

Mon. April 22 7pm Membership Meeting

 Wood County Library

Sat. May 4 LWVWV State Convention

 Jefferson County

Mon. May 13 7 pm LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

Due to Memorial Day holiday, there will be no

general membership meeting in May.

April 22 Membership Meeting

 SUE THORN will be the featured speaker at the April meeting of the League of Women Voters of Wood County to be held Monday the 22nd at 7 pm in the Summers Auditorium on the lower level of the Wood County Library.

 Thorn will discuss issues important to the League such as environmental concerns and the flood of money into politics ushered in by the Citizens United court decision. She will also speak about her current position working with non-profits in the Pittsburgh area. Find out what a Community Organizer really does!

 Sue Thorn has worked with the Hopeful City project in Wheeling and the West Virginia Education Association as well as running for Congress last fall in West Virginia's First Congressional District.

Open to the public. Invite friends to attend.

Voter

 April 2013

LWV State Convention

 The state League convention will be held Saturday, May 4 in Jefferson County. Wood County may send up to 4 delegates in addition to our two state board members. If interested in attending, contact the president for more information.

 Convention is an opportunity to exchange ideas with other members from around the state, meet state board members, and give direction to the state board.

Meet the President

 For the first time in eight years, the LWVWC has a new president. Since Charmaine hasn’t been around the League as long as some of us, we asked her for a few lines to introduce herself.

*I worked almost 40 years in Mental Health and have both a BSW & MSW in social work from WVU.  I came from a politically active family and have been involved since childhood.  During my years working in mental health, I often worked w/ legislators on bills affecting mental health and with business and industry in the early years of development of Employee Assistance Programs.  I still do consulting and crisis work.  My therapy is with my dogs and horse.*

Other Board News

 As of April 1, the Board welcomes new members Lydia Cobranchi, Kathe Deitzler, and Emily Grafton. All are quite new to the LWV and we look forward to having the benefit of their fresh ideas and perspectives.

 Also at the April Board meeting, Else Lamba, Nancy Novak, Margaret Spransy, and Nancy Taylor were appointed to one-year terms.

**New Member:** Erin Deitzler joins Harry and Kathe in making the Deitzlers’ a three-LWVWC-member household. Welcome Erin!

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Recycling News

The Parkersburg Recycling facility is now accepting #1, #2, and **#5** plastics. Accepting #5 is new; check the number on the container. Yogurt containers usually (but not always) are 5’s.

 I called Parkersburg Recycling to inquire about Vienna and was told that since Vienna’s recycling collection goes to the Parkersburg facility, Vienna residents may now include #5 plastics, too.

Nancy Taylor has been working on compiling an **informational brochure** about recycling to distribute in the community. It is almost ready for the printer. If you have suggestions about where or to what groups we should distribute it, email the president: cyde62@suddenlink.net Printing costs have been funded by a grant from the LWV of West Virginia.

Update on Legislation

 The 2013 regular session of the WV Legislature ends Saturday (4/13) at midnight, except for work on the budget, so the outcome for many of the bills of interest to the LWV isn’t certain as of this writing.

To check the fate of the bills below, go to [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us), and click on *Bill Status*. Enter the bill number (just the digits) and submit. To see how local legislators voted, scroll down the list of actions and click on the *Roll Call No.*

Sending a message of thanks to a legislator whose vote you appreciate is easy. You can link to any member’s email or find an address for snail mail or a phone number via the House or Senate’s Members links.

Voter ID – Good news – none of the Voter ID bills was acted on.

Public Financing for Supreme Court of Appeals elections – HB2805 passed House, on second reading in Senate Friday. Outlook hopeful.

Water Quality – The House has passed HB2579, which weakens the standard for selenium (mostly from surface mines) in waterways. On 3rd reading in Senate

Friday. Bad news.

Energy Efficiency – HB2210 The bill was referred to Judiciary Committee and has not been acted on.

Guns – The House has passed HB2760, which establishes uniform regulation of firearms and ammunition statewide, nullifying stricter local regulations for firearm sales that some municipalities have adopted. The Senate Government Organization Committee has not acted on HB2760. See Home Rule →

Home Rule – The Senate has passed SB435, which extends the Home Rule Pilot project for five more years and extends eligibility to smaller cities than the original pilot project. The House passed an amended version adding language stating that cities that want to continue or initiate home rule may not have any local regulations or restrictions relating to firearms except to restrict carrying of firearms in municipal buildings. A conference committee would have to work out the differences before the bill could pass both houses. If the project is not extended, the pilot project sunsets this year.

Electronic Voter Registration - SB477 passed Senate, on second reading in House Thursday. Outlook good. \*

Maintaining Voter Registration Lists – SB535 passed Senate, on second reading in House Thursday. Outlook good. \*

\* These are among bills the Secretary of State has requested to better serve voters and to maintain more accurate voter registration rolls.

With all the news coverage of Congress’ reaction/action/inaction on gun violence, newer LWV members may wonder about the League’s position on control of firearms.

The LWVUS position: *Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.*

Note the following:

**LWVUS Letter to U.S. House in Favor of Common Sense Gun Legislation**

The League sent the following letter to members of the U.S. House urging them to pass common sense solutions to the gun violence plaguing our nation. Members of the grassroots Lobby Corps will also deliver this message in meetings with House members.

March 21, 2013

To:   Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

From:    Elisabeth MacNamara, President

Re: Reducing Gun Violence

On behalf of our 140,000 members and supporters, as well as the millions of Americans at risk every day, the League of Women Voters strongly urges you to pass common sense solutions to the gun violence that is plaguing our nation

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It is time for Congress to adopt legislation that will close the gun show loophole, increase penalties for straw purchases of guns, ban assault weapons, place limits on

high capacity ammunition magazine size, and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America.  Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence.

Along with the majority of American citizens, the League supports closing the gun show loophole and providing for universal background checks.  Currently, background checks are not required for the 40 percent of gun sales that take place at gun shows, person-to-person sales or other private transactions.   A recent Quinnipiac poll found that 92 percent of voters, including 91 percent of gun owners, support background checks on all gun purchasers.  In addition, Congress should pass legislation to increase the penalties for straw purchases in which individuals who do not have criminal records buy guns and pass them on to individuals who are not eligible to purchase a firearm, including felons and domestic abusers.

The League also believes that the 113th Congress should pass legislation to ban all military-style semi-automatic assault weapons along with high capacity ammunition magazines.  The Quinnipiac poll found that 56 percent of registered voters nationwide support a ban on the sale of assault weapons.  Placing limits on magazine size is a common sense solution to shootings that kill many people at once. This limit should include magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.  These devices allow shooters to fire numerous rounds in rapid succession without having to stop and reload, and they have been a central part in the mass killings of recent years.

Throughout the country, local and state Leagues have been holding meetings with their fellow citizens to discuss the crisis of gun violence.  They have testified before state legislatures and met with their neighbors in community meetings to come together, air their differences and work to find common ground and solve some of the difficult problems presented in the gun debate, including mental health issues and the problem of domestic violence.  Congress should follow suit and start to act on common sense solutions to curb gun violence.

# **LWVUS Statement Concerning Strategies about Money in Elections**

(April 7, 2013) - The U.S. Supreme Court has made a series of decisions including Buckley v. Valeo, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, McComish v. Bennett, etc. that have affected the areas of campaigns and elections, issues in which the League of Women Voters has been active since its inception and that are primary concerns of the organization. →

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Unlimited expenditures from millionaires, corporations, unions, and trade associations overwhelm citizens’ voices, lead to corruption, and unfairly disrupt the representative process. Moreover, much of this spending occurs without disclosure of the sources of funding. This lack of transparency undermines the voters’ ability to make informed decisions and makes corruption even more likely.

The question is how best to address the issues that emanate from the U.S. Supreme Court decisions. These issues demand a multidimensional approach: federal legislation on disclosure, “independent” spending, coordination rules, real enforcement by the IRS of violations of the rules for non-profit organizations, reform of the Federal Election Commission, etc.

The League has received requests to support a constitutional amendment without fully specifying the content of the amendment. The League has long evaluated its advocacy work based on our positions, on the opportunity to best make a difference, and on the availability of necessary resources. The League has not yet found a proposed constitutional amendment that we can support within our positions. Because Money in Elections is a priority for the League, we will be continually re-evaluating the opportunity for legislation in this area.

Borrowed from the web:

**IF GUNS WERE AS REGULATED AS CARS**

  

►Title and tag at each Title and tag at each

 point of sale point of sale

►Driver training Gun training

►Written test Written test

►Practical test Practical test

►Health requirements Health requirements

►Liability insurance on Liability Insurance on

 each car each gun

►Renewal and inspection Renewal and inspection

 at intervals at intervals

Other things that are more regulated than guns:

Air travel, scuba diving, alcohol, cell phones, livestock, marriage, food, cold medicine, strippers, education, voting, tobacco, funerals,

household pets, fishing



**APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY**

Commit an act of green!

Over 1 billion have been reported to [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

Help the total reach 2 billion:

Carpool to the League meeting, plant a tree, change to energy-saving light bulbs, pick up litter when you take a walk, start composting, fix an all-organic meal, recycle more, donate useable items to charity instead of sending to landfill

Friday and Saturday, May 3 – 4, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wood County Solid Waste Authority **SPECIAL COLLECTION DAY** for tires, paint, TV’s, computers, appliances and metal items, propane tanks, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries. [www.woodcountyrecycles.com](http://www.woodcountyrecycles.com)



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

**Membership Meeting April 22**

April 2013 Voter

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $40 ($60 for 2 people at

one address) to the LWVWC Treasurer, 1 Fox Hill Dr.,

Parkersburg WV 26104 Write “dues” on the memo line.