



THE WEST VIRGINIA VOTER

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Call to Convention

The Jefferson County LWV has graciously invited us to the beautiful eastern panhandle for our LWVWV biennial convention on Saturday, May 4, 2013. The meeting will be held at the **Hampton Inn & Suites, 157 Pimlico Drive, Charles Town, WV**. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the call to order at 10:00 a.m. Business should be completed no later than 3:00 p.m. Business to be conducted includes election of officers and directors and approval of the budget, program, and bylaws changes. Sean O’Leary, playwright and blogger (the-state-of-my-state.com), will be the featured speaker.

Who is eligible to attend convention? Each local League is entitled to one delegate in addition to its president, or an alternate should the president be unable to attend. Leagues having more than 15 voting members are entitled to one additional delegate for each additional 10 voting members or major fraction thereof as of January 31, 2013. Other League members attending are designated as “visitors.” **The registration fee for delegates and visitors is \$25.00, which includes lunch. Please pre-register by April 25 by contacting Susan Watkins at 304-343-8574 or susanwatkins@suddenlink.net.**

Non-state board member delegates or visitors who want to come on Friday should make their own room reservations at the Hampton Inn. The hotel will hold a block of rooms until **April 19** at the rate of \$129.00. Call the hotel by that date at 304-725-2200, or go online at www.charlestownsuites.hamptoninn.com. Mention **group code LWV**.

Proposed Budget 2013-2014

Income

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Member Dues | 3,005.00 |
| Reserves | 4,715.00 |
| Trust | 1,800.00 |
| Interest/Other | 392.00 |
| TOTAL | \$9,912.00 |

Expenditures

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| General Administration | 1,900.00 |
| Board/Administrative Comm. | 1,180.00 |
| National Convention/Council | 1,500.00 |
| LWVUS PMP for MALs | 837.00 |
| Voter | 1,545.00 |
| Educational | 250.00 |
| Position Support | 650.00 |
| Endowment Trust Expenses | 50.00 |
| <u>Stern/Lloyd Education Fund Grants</u> | <u>2,000.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$9,912.00 |

Nominating Committee Report

Nancy Taylor, Chair
Betty Barrett, Priscilla Haden

Terms are for two years.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President | Nancy Novak (Wood Co.) |
| 1st VP | Helen Gibbins (Huntington) |
| 2nd VP | Nancy Deming (MAL) |
| Secretary | Monika Rowe (Huntington) |
| Treasurer | Teresa Koon (MAL) |
| Directors | Priscilla Haden (MAL) |
| | Jonathan Rosenbaum (Morgantown) |
| | Shirley Rosenbaum (Morgantown) |
| | Kathy Stoltz (Wood Co.) |
| | Carolyn Watson (Jefferson Co.) |
| 2013 Nominating Committee | Pam Cutright, Chair (MAL) |
| | Karen Campbell (Wood Co.) |

Legislative Update

Status of Bills as of April 4, 2013

The 2013 regular session of the Legislature ends at midnight on April 13. Below is the status of some of the bills of interest to the League. For more details about a specific bill, go to <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/> and click on Bill Status. Search by bill number to access the text of the bill and its history. Senate bills have two or three digit numbers; four-digit bills originated in the House.

Public Financing for Supreme Court of Appeals Campaigns

2805 would make permanent the Supreme Court of Appeals public campaign financing pilot program. Passed the House. (LWV supports)

Election Laws

There were at least four bills (13, 2215, 3107, 3117) introduced requiring photo ID at the polls. Secretary of State Natalie Tennant organized a coalition of interested parties (including the LWVWV) to fight the legislation. The bills are languishing in various committees so it does not appear that they will see action this session.

Environment

158 The Complete Streets Act passed the Senate and is in the House Government Organization Committee. The act would ensure the safety of all travelers including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders through policies, design guidance, planning, development, construction and maintenance of roads in this state. (LWV supports)

2210 Requires utility companies to provide programs to their customers to help them save money on their utility bills by making homes, businesses and other buildings more energy efficient. In House Judiciary Committee. (LWV supports)

2579 Weakened water quality standards for selenium. Selenium is a naturally occurring element that ends up in rivers and streams when rock and soil from mountaintop removal sites are discarded. In small amounts, it is harmless, but some studies have found that it is toxic to aquatic life and humans in larger amounts. Passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. (LWV opposes)

2803 Requires utilities to implement integrated resource plans. Integrated Resource Planning legislation requires power companies to submit long-term plans to the Public Service Commission every two years to determine the mix of resources to best meet future energy needs. Power companies would be required to give investments in energy efficiency (reducing demand) equal consideration to investments in traditional power plants, which they currently do not do. In the House Government Organization Committee. (LWV supports)

Health Care

22 Requires insurance companies to cover maternity care for dependents, including teens. Passed the Senate. (LWV supports)

Civil Rights

2856 Prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and housing. Pulled from the calendar because it had been weakened to the point that the sponsors did not want it to come up for a vote. (LWV supports)

Education

359 Governor Tomblin's education reform bill passed with some compromises. Its provisions include: allowing principals and faculty senates to have a say over teacher hires with their recommendations receiving double weight among 11 factors; increasing the yearly school calendar from 43 to 48 weeks; providing elementary school teachers with specialized training to help increase the number of 3rd graders reading at grade level; providing for full day pre-K programs for 4-year-olds. (LWV did not take a position on.)

Taxation

593 Increases the tax on cigarettes and other tobacco products. In the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. (LWV supports)

Gun Control

Several bills were introduced in the House relating to various gun control issues. One would have declared null and void current municipal ordinances that limit handgun sales and waiting periods. It passed in the House, but will not see action in the Senate. Another would have declared all future federal, state and municipal firearms measures invalid and unenforceable. The LWVUS has positions supporting a ban on assault weapons and expanded background checks.

Government Organization

435, which extends the Home Rule Pilot project for five more years and extends eligibility to smaller cities than the original pilot project, was passed by the Senate. Participating cities are given more flexibility to operate than state law and regulations allow. On first reading in House on April 4. (LWV supports)

Natural Resources

Helen Gibbins

Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. "The world has known about climate change for decades, yet little has been done to address the issue," said Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President. "People are dying because of climate change. Our families, our communities and our planet are all threatened by it." Other costs include the rising costs of insurance to cover disaster claims.

According to NASA's website, "Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position." NASA lists a number of observable environmental effects caused by global climate change: "Glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up earlier, plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner (increasing) loss of sea ice, accelerated sea level rise and longer, more intense heat waves."

NASA's website also includes conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC states, "Scientists have high confidence that global temperatures will continue to rise for decades to come, largely due to greenhouse gasses produced by human activities. The IPCC, which includes more than 1,300 scientists from the United States and other countries, forecasts a temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century.

"Taken as a whole," the IPCC states, "the range of published evidence indicates that the net damage costs of climate change are likely to be significant and to increase over time."

The IPCC forecasts a variety of effects according to different regions of the world: increased agricultural yield; decreased agricultural yield; increased intensity and duration of heat waves; flooding; drought; replacement of tropical forest by savannah; species and biodiversity loss; less fresh water available for humans; increased risk of inland flash floods; more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion from storms and sea level rise; glacial retreat in mountainous areas; rising death rate from disease associated with floods and droughts; and reduced snow cover and winter tourism.

The LWVUS is asking President Obama to use his regulatory powers to control industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The League notes that past Congressional action on climate change has been stymied by special interests but that the President has the authority to take action himself.

"With the current gridlock in Congress, it seems impossible that any legislative action will be taken to protect our health and our planet. President Obama, you can do this by yourself, without a second-guessing Congress or a nay-saying Supreme Court. In fact, the Supreme Court has already said that the Administration can move forward under the Clean Air Act to cut this life-threatening pollution," MacNamara said in a letter to President Obama.

"President Obama, if you don't do it, it won't get done," concluded MacNamara. "If the United States doesn't lead, the rest of the world cannot follow."

In addition to the hope that President Obama will issue regulations on car-

bon producing entities, there is still talk in Congress about improving energy efficiency, a measure that can reduce carbon pollution and save consumers money. But most of the present action on energy efficiency has been promoted in state legislatures. Energy efficiency laws have been passed in many states.

West Virginians also are calling for action on energy efficiency laws. How that plays out in the 2013 legislative session is unknown at the time this *Voter* was printed. But we should continue to contact our legislators asking them to make energy efficiency a priority, both for our citizens' pocketbooks and for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Local League News

This month **Huntington** members will visit a home with geothermal heating and other sustainable attributes. Huntington prepared a Guide to the Legislature which listed the Cabell and Wayne County members of the legislature along with their contact information and committee assignments.

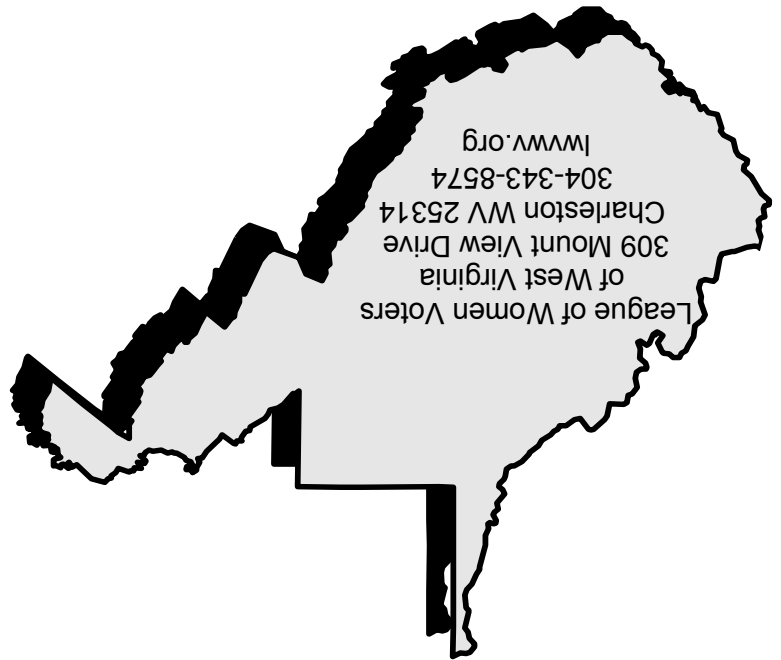
Morgantown-Monongalia County will sponsor a city council candidates meeting on April 17. Their March meeting, *What D'ya Know About City Government*, presented information about how local government operates.

Wood County held its annual meeting on March 21. The featured speaker was the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Mid-Ohio Valley.

Want to know more about the League? Check us out at:

**lww.org
lwwv.org**

Susan Watkins
President and Editor



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LWVWV Scholarship at West Virginia University

In 1998, the LWVWV established a scholarship at WVU as a lasting tribute to Becky Cain Ceperley, 14th president of the LWVUS. Becky is a graduate of WVU and a native of St. Albans, WV.

Income from this endowed scholarship fund is used to provide an annual scholarship to a female student who is a major or pre-major in the WVU Political Science Dept. Preference is given to a resident of West Virginia whenever possible. The scholarship applicant must demonstrate academic promise and financial need.

Caitlyn Cooper is the current recipient of the scholarship. The next recipient will be selected in May 2013 for the Fall 2013 - Spring 2014 academic year.

Questions about the scholarship should be directed to Brenda Riggle at brenda.riggle@mail.wvu.edu.

Calendar

- April 13 Regular session of legislature adjourns at midnight
- April 22 Earth Day
- May 4 LWVWV State Convention Charles Town
- June 14-16 LWVUS Council National Conference Center Lansdowne, VA

JOIN THE LEAGUE! The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. **If you live in Cabell, Jefferson, Monongalia, or Wood County, please contact the local League in those counties.** To join at the state level, send a check or money order payable to LWVWV to: Teresa Koon, Treasurer, LWVWV, 4112 Coopers Creek Rd., Charleston WV 25312. Dues are \$40 for individuals, \$60 for a household, and \$20 for students. Because we are a lobbying organization, membership dues are not tax-deductible.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____