# 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.. Feb.. 24 7 p.m. Membership meeting – Common Core – see below

Mon. Mar. 12 7 p.m. LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

Thurs. Mar. 27 6 p.m. Annual Meeting

 Parkersburg Country Club

**Membership Meeting**

**Monday, February 24, 7:00 p.m.**

***Judge Black Annex, Parkersburg***

**Next Generation Content**

**Standards and Objectives**

**(aka Common Core)**



The Wood County Schools Curriculum and Instruction Department will provide a short presentation on the West Virginia Next Generation Content Standards and Objectives. The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

The Next Generation Standards are designed to focus on fewer concepts while stressing deeper learning and understanding. The standards make the way teachers teach more focused and flexible while making the way students learn more engaging and personalized.

→

Voter

 February 2014

Our guests will be Judy Johnson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Tammy McKnight, Curriculum Coordinator.

Judy has been with WCS since 1978, serving as a classroom teacher, media specialist, Title 1 Reading Specialist, school and county administrator. She had advanced degrees in Reading and Administration from Marshall University and Salem International University.

Tammy has been with WCS since 1999, serving as a classroom teacher and instructional coach before becoming a county administrator. She is a National Board Certified Teacher, has a MA degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Salem International and an engineering degree from West Virginia University – Institute of Technology.

This meeting is open to all who are interested in learning more about coming changes in our schools.

 **Chasing Ice**

 Our apologies to anyone who braved the weather on January 27 and found that our movie night had been cancelled. Because local officials had advised that people stay at home and that the weather forecast was for sub-zero temperatures that night, we thought it was safer to cancel. Unfortunately it was too late to notify everyone who might attend.

**Chasing Ice has been rescheduled for April 28th,**

**Vienna Library, 7 p.m..**

If you invited others to attend, please extend our apologies and be sure to let them know about the new date, when we are confident the weather will be better.

**ANNUAL MEETING – MARCH 27**

* Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m.
* Parkersburg Country Club
* Cost $25/person
* Speaker: Christina Myer, Executive Editor, Parkersburg News & Sentinel
* Guests are welcome

See reservation form at the top of page 4.

More **→**

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***Annual Meeting Business***

Our business meeting at the annual meeting will be brief, but is essential. The following will be voted on:

**Election of officers:**

The Nominating Committee (Karen Campbell, Teresa Kimmel, Jean Grapes) has made the following report:

* 2nd Vice-president (2014-16) Margaret Spransy
* Treasurer (2014-16) Marion Weiser
* Directors (2014-16) Jean Grapes, Judy Peascoe, Else Lamba
* Nominating Committee (2014-15) Karen Campbell, Bernice Lemley

The remaining officers and directors were elected last year for two-year terms. Note that additional directors may be appointed by the board for one year terms.

**Local Program:**

**Proposed Local Program for 2014-15**

1. **ZONING**  Support sound zoning.
2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

 A. Oppose primaries in municipal elections, with certain exceptions.

 B. Support measures to facilitate annexation, upgrade city services, and improve the area’s appearance

 C. Support full implementation and continuation of the strong-mayor charter for the city of Parkersburg.

 D. Support clarification of mayoral appointive powers, creation of office of Mayoral Administrative Assistant, and an independent audit of city finances for the city of Parkersburg.

3. **EDUCATION**

 A. Support re-evaluation of the Wood County School System.

 B. Support measures to improve the financial structure of the Wood County School System.

4. **HEALTH SERVICES**

 A. Support adequate financing for mental health programs

 B. Support the idea that mental health services be delivered on a community level.

*Note: These are locally adopted positions, which*

*apply only in Wood County. Our local League is*

*bound by and operates under all state and*

*national League positions as well.*

**Proposed 2014 – 2015 Budget**

Budget  **Proposed**

 FY 13-14 **FY 14-15**

INCOME

 Dues, members 1200 1200

 Contributions, members 100 100

 Contributions, non-members 0 0

 Annual meeting 500 500

 Miscellaneous 10 10

 From Reserves 695 1175

 2505 2985

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Expense

 President 50 50

 Speaker gifts 20 20

 Secretary of State fee 25 25

 Other 0 0

Program and Activities

 Publications, Voter, roster, copier 300 300

 Voter Service 20 500

 Membership meetings, travel 20 40

 Annual Meeting 500 500

Delegates

 LWVWV Convention/Council 50 50

LWV Dues

 Per member payment, LWV US 1120 1200

 Per member payment, LWV WV 400 400

Miscellaneous 0 0

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 2505 2985

Our annual meeting guest speaker, Christina Myer, is the recently appointed executive editor of The Parkersburg News & Sentinel. Ms. Myer has previously worked at newspapers in Warren, OH, The Intelligencer in Wheeling WV, and was editor of the Times Leader in Martins Ferry, OH. Most recently she was assistant news editor on the Americas Copy Desk at Dow Jones Newswires in NY.

 DUES FOR NEW MEMBERS

 From now through the annual meeting in March **new members** may join for half price. This is the time to invite someone to learn about Common Core on February 24, to join us at the Annual Meeting March 27, and join the LWV.

For new members only, individual membership will be $20, household membership $30. These memberships will last through March 2015 – a good deal for those who have been hesitating.

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## LWVWV Legislative Priorities for 2014

* The LWVWV supports the concept of a future fund for West Virginia
* The LWVWV supports an upgrade of the fracking/horizontal drilling law to protect those who live near the drilling sites and the environment.
* The LWVWV supports measures that improve children's lives by assuring access to health care, pre-school education, and community resources that increase their chances for early school success.

**Legislative Update**

For updates:

 With a little more than three weeks left in the 2014 regular session, only four bills have passed both houses, all of them dealing with appropriations. No need to point out that the aftermath of the chemical spill in Kanawha County has received the most attention.

 Many of the 1111 bills introduced in the House and 559 in the Senate are carried over from last year. Needless to say, most will not get taken up and will die in committee.

 The Senate quickly passed **SB 373, regulating above ground storage tanks**. In the House, the bill was referred to three committees, which jointly held a public hearing. Many spoke in favor of strengthening the bill. As of this writing the bill is still in the House Health and Human Resources Committee, and will go to Judiciary, then Finance, when reported out.

**SB 461** creates a **Future Fund** went from Economic Development Committee to the Finance Committee, where it currently resides. It’s described as almost sure to pass the Senate and go to the House.

 **SB 359** “The purpose of this bill is to **remove the hand canvassing requirements of electronic voting machines**, while leaving intact the recount provisions.” This bill passed the Senate 33-0-1 and is in the House Judiciary Committee.

 **HB 4406** would require that campaign financial statements be filed electronically, which would enable the public to have more timely access to this information. In House Judiciary Committee

**HB 4406** “the WV Corporate Political Accountability Act” and **HB 4463**, which concerns the disclosure of information on campaign contributions and spending, are both in House Judiciary Committee.

**HB4284, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act,** requires employers to make reasonable accommodations to allow pregnant workers to continue doing their jobs. Bill has passed the House, is in Senate Labor (really) Committee; it then goes to Judiciary.

 **SB 472 and HB 2856** add language to the Human Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation. Both are in Judiciary Committees.

 This is not an exhaustive list of bills that League members may find of interest. Under the Bill Status tab on: [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us), you can search for all bills on a topic of interest, read the texts, see who sponsored them, and see where they stand. Each legislator’s individual page has a phone number and a link to send email .

Local legislators on committees where these bills are pending are:

House Judiciary: Del. John Ellem

House Finance: Del. Dan Poling

House Health & Human Resources: Del. Anna Border -

 Sheppard

Senate Finance: Sen. Donna Boley

Senate Judiciary: Sen. David Nohe

Senate Labor: none

**Commentary**

But what, you may ask, are legislators doing about protecting **water quality**? If you search the legislature’s web site for bills related to water resources, you find that 20 bills have been introduced. All but two are still in committee. The two exceptions, SB 373 concerning storage tanks and SB 454 which defines dam “owner”, have passed the Senate and are in House committees. Possibly some of these bills are “bad,” but the titles of many sound like they would go far to protect West Virginia from another “water crisis” – large or small.

Citizen Action Group (CAG) has created a petition at [www.petitions.moveon.org/sign/keep-our-drinking-water](http://www.petitions.moveon.org/sign/keep-our-drinking-water): *I want my delegates and senators to know I support real protections for clean water, and that I want them to implement the recommendations of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Chemical Safety Board.* It will be sent to WV legislators and the Governor. Over 2000 from all over the state have already signed, but not many from this area.

More legislative information: See Daily Bulletin on [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us). Look up CAG’s Friday reports, Capitol Eye, at [www.wvcag.org](http://www.wvcag.org).

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#### Reservations for March 27, 2014 Annual Meeting

*Name(s)* *Please include a phone number Entrées: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chef’s Choice of Fish, or*

 *Vegetarian Pasta.*

 *Served with twice-baked potato, vegetable, salad, rolls, dessert*

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Cost: $25.00 per person. Make check payable to **LWVWC** and mail to:

**Marion Weiser, 1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104 to arrive by March 22.**





LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Drive

Vienna WV 26105

**Meeting February 24**

***“Common Core”***

**February 2014 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.