# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net

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LWVWV [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org) LWVUS [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, April 18 LWVWV State Convention in

 Huntington.

Monday, April 27 Membership Meeting – see below

Monday, May 11, 7 p.m. LWVWC Board Meeting

 Wood County Library

**Membership Meeting**

**Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.**

**Vienna Senior Center**

(Corner of 29th St. and 8th Ave. in Vienna, just up the street from the City Building and Police Station.)

**What do Fracking and Cracking Bring?**

We’ve all heard concerns about the environmental effects of fracking besides the jobs it creates, the boost to a local economy. We’ve all read about the possibility of a cracking plant coming to Wood County with the same hopes for jobs and local tax revenues. But what else happens in a community when there’s a sudden influx of new people to accommodate in housing, employment, public services, schools, and public safety services? Are our local governmental bodies prepared for changes in a county where the population level has changed little in several decades?

Earlier this year a group of local officials traveled to North Dakota to learn from the experience of the cities of Minot and Williston, where the gas production boom has brought in thousands of new residents and temporary workers. Local officials there gave generously of their time and experiences to help our local officials look ahead and plan for what could be in the future for our area, although probably not on the scale experienced in Minot and Williston.

Vienna Mayor Randy Rapp was among those who traveled to North Dakota and has agreed to meet with League members and guests to talk about what they learned and what kinds of actions he foresees to be ready should such an influx take place locally.

Among the questions – Are local zoning ordinances adequate? Is more regulation needed in rural →

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areas of the county? How will local businesses compete for workers? If workers bring families, can the schools accommodate more children? What happens to the local housing market? If workers come temporarily, where will they live?

 Open to all - Bring a friend, or several friends.

See page 2 for more on fracking & cracking

National Volunteers Week

 League members know a lot about volunteering, doing the work of the LWV and a long list of other organizations to which League members give their time.

 THANK YOU to all who have done and continue to do priceless work in our communities - advocating and working for a cleaner environment, for better government and better informed voters, for helping the disadvantaged, for feeding the hungry, for visiting the lonely, and a thousand other things. Imagine all that would not get done if volunteers all took a month off.

Reminder -

LWVWV State Convention

this Saturday, April 18

The biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of West Virginia will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Barboursville Mall in Huntington.

The luncheon speaker will be Ted Boettner, Executive Director, WV Center for Budget and Policy. Mr. Boettner and his organization have worked together with the League on numerous issues in the legislature, such as children’s issues.

If you are interested in attending as a Wood County delegate, time is short. Call Charmaine Dotson at 304-428-1076 or Nancy Novak at 304-295-8215.

DUES: Our League year runs from April 1 – March 31. so unless you have paid your dues since January 1, it’s time to renew. Dues are $45 for an individual, $25 additional for each added member in the same household. Send a check payable to LWVWC to the treasurer, Marion Weiser, 1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104.

Note: Because Memorial Day falls on our regular meeting date, there will be no membership meeting in May.

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Legislative Update

 A report on actions of the recent legislative session was in the Spring LWVWV Voter that all members received recently. Should you ever mislay or miss a copy, both state and local Voters are posted on [www.lwvwv.org](http://www.lwvwv.org).

**OR** 

If you would like to receive the LWV Wood County Voter via email instead of in your mail box, send a message to ksstoltz@suddenlink.net and put Voter on the subject line.



What is a cracker plant anyway?

Hint: No Ritz or Triscuits are involved.

From [www.alleghenyfront.org](http://www.alleghenyfront.org)

*“An ethane cracker takes ethane, a component of natural gas found in abundance in the Marcellus shale, and process, or ‘crack’ it into ethylene.  It does this by heating the ethane up so hot that it breaks apart the molecular bonds holding it together to form ethylene.  Crackers often feed other nearby plants that create more refined products further “downstream.” Crackers are generally very large industrial plants.*

*Ethylene is the most commonly produced petrochemical. It is the root chemical for a kingdom of plastics, resins, adhesives, and synthetic products used in* [*virtually every aspect of modern life*](http://www.alleghenyfront.org/products-made-ethylene/full)*.*

*Ethylene is used as the basis for plastics like beverage containers, food wrap, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyester, and chemicals like those found in antifreeze, solvents, urethanes, and  pharmaceuticals.”*



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

Memberhip Meeting

Monday, April 27

Membership in the LWV is open to all citizens of

voting age. To join the LWVWC, send a check

payable to LWVWC for $45 (plus $25 for each additional

member at the same address) to the LWVWC Treasurer,

1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104

Write “dues” on the memo line.

Marcellus Shale – Where is it?

 To see maps of where the Marcellus shale underlies WV and where there are wells, go to [www.ohvec.org](http://www.ohvec.org) and scroll over “Programs” and click on “Marcellus Shale” and then look for link to Maps of Marcellus Shale Permits in WV.

 You’ll see that there are no permit/well dots in Wood County, but many in nearby counties. As expected, wells are concentrated where the Marcellus layer is thickest, east and north of here.

As the coal industry has demonstrated, methods for extracting fossil fuels evolve over time. Deposits once thought too expensive to recover eventually get developed when technology and mechanization find them and find a way to tap them. As the industry reminds us, fracking has been around for a long time. What’s new is the ability to drill sideways and frack far bigger areas from a single well site.

As with coal, information about side effects accumulates as the industry grows: how to dispose of byproducts, effect on air and water quality, impact on quality of life and health for nearby residents, challenges for regulators in doing their jobs, political influence, and on and on the list goes.

