# 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](mailto:ksstoltz@suddenlink.net)

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

Mark Your Calendar

**Thursday, June 4 11:30 a.m. at Colombo’s**

see below

**Membership Meeting/Lunch**

All members and guests are invited to join us for lunch on Thursday, June 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Colombo’s Restaurant, 1236 7th Street, Parkersburg. Ask at the front door which room the League is using.

The only agenda for the meeting is to brainstorm and suggest – ideas for programs, ways to recruit new members, general suggestions on how the League could entice members to be more active participants, things we should be doing that we’re not, or anything else League-related.

The local League has participated in recent state and national studies like library funding (LWVWV) and immigration (LWVUS), but hasn’t done a local study in many years. Is there a local issue that we should take up? One where we already have a position but could be more active?

Come and join the discussion. Bring ideas.



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. Write “dues” on the memo line.

Voter May-June 2015

LWVWV State Convention

The biennial State Convention of the League of Women Voters of West Virginia was held on April 18l in Huntington.

Following elections, LWV Wood County will be represented on the State Board by Nancy Novak as president and by Lydia Cobranchi (new to the board) and Kathy Stoltz as directors. It’s been a while since Wood County had a third member on State Board, so we are happy to have Lydia join. New perspectives welcome!

Current board members reported on their portfolios, and Ted Boettner Executive Director, WV Center for Budget and Policy of spoke on tax reform in WV and how tax policy affects the rest of the state’s agenda. For example, with a few exceptions, reductions in taxes on businesses in recent years have brought little development to the state. To offset lost reveue, cuts to funding for highways and higher education were made, affecting transportation and educating the work force, both important to businesses deciding where to locate.

Who’s Buying Lunch?

***When the League meets for lunch, we each buy our own. Apparently when Legislators lunch, often it’s lobbyists who pay.***

Charleston Gazette columnist Phil Kabler reported in a recent column that lobbyists’ reported expenditures for the 2015 regular session totaled $528,797, compared to $294,493 in 2014. To be fair, Kabler points out that some reports included outside advertising expenditures that had not been reported in the past.

The biggest spender was the WV Business and Industry Council, at $211, 622, the lion’s share of which was for TV and radio ads “touting the new legislative leadership, and encouraging listeners to call their legislators to support bills including SB357, the Coal Jobs and Safety Act, which critics said rolled back safety and environmental standards, and HB2688, which rolled back regulations for above-ground storage tanks.”

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**From LWVUS 5/21/15 League Update**

**League Opposes S. 1324 Senator Capito’s “Polluter Protection Act”**  
The League sent [a letter](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=nFkwi6FPcXu5MUckJKAJL3V5YTsLTqu2) to the U.S. Senate opposing S. 1324**\*** sponsored by Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV). The [“Polluter Protection Act”](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=CwnHOul2RJtGwGJzOcoR73V5YTsLTqu2) will protect big polluters by blocking the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean Power Plan. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices to discuss this legislation.

**\***actual title: “The Affordable Reliable Energy Now Act”

**Tell Congress to Protect People Not Polluters**   
April 22, marked the forty-fifth anniversary of Earth Day. The Environmental Protection Agency, under President Obama, has worked to establish regulations that will reduce greenhouse gasses that cause climate change — like carbon dioxide, mercury and methane, and protect U.S. waters from pollution. But our natural resources continue to come under attack. [Tell Congress to stand up for the planet and support the work of the EPA to fight climate change, protect public health and grow our economy!](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=dKyNdWDhi4gR%2FKTa9OAbI3V5YTsLTqu2)

**Action Alert: Urge the President to Fully Reject the Keystone XL Pipeline**   
President Obama fulfilled his promise to [veto legislation](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=GHbKRXJ3%2FLY9CDJ4CSzL7nV5YTsLTqu2) approving the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline! The League is proud to stand behind the President’s veto because the pipeline is not in our national interest. But the fight is not over — President Obama and the U.S. State Department must still make a final decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. [Thank President Obama for vetoing the pipeline legislation and urge him to reject final approval of the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all!](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=NjUUJo0LHA1KjpS1LttfUXV5YTsLTqu2)



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

Membership Meeting/Lunch

6/4/15 11:30 a.m. Columbo’s

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.

**LWVUS STUDY ITEMS**

At Convention 2014, delegates chose Key Structures of Democracy as the program for the League of Women Voters for the 2014-2016 biennium.

Three committees have been selected to collect and disseminate information on: **money in politics**; the process of **amending the Constitution**; and **redistricting** in the states.  This ambitious undertaking will end by June 2016.

The timeline follows:

* Spring 2015: Education materials posted periodically on the League Management website. Leagues are encouraged to use these materials for member and community meetings;
* Fall 2015: Study guides and consensus questions posted for the Money in Politics Review and Constitutional Amendment Study. Leagues hold consensus meetings;
* February 1, 2016: Consensus reports (electronic) from Leagues due to LWVUS, and
* April 2016 national LWV Board meeting: Consensus reports and resulting position(s), if any, approved.

For background materials go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on **Members** in the upper right corner, which should show a page called League Management Site. Then click on **Our Work** and pick a topic.

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FYI

Progress? A recent graduating class of the WV State Police Academy included six women among the 43 graduates, the most women ever in one class. One of the six women will be assigned to the Parkersburg detachment. Women comprise just a small minority of state troopers. Physical ability standards are the same for men and women.