# 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

 Monday Nov. 16 6:30 p.m. LWVWC Board Meeting

 **7 p.m. Membership meeting**

 Vienna Library

 Monday, Dec. 7 Holiday Party

 1360 Market St.

 Parkersburg

Membership Meeting – open to public

Public Defenders Office

Speaker: Attorney Michelle Rusen

**Monday, Nov. 16, 7:00 p.m.**

Vienna Public Library

Within the next few months a Public Defender Corporation office will open in Parkersburg to serve the 4th Judicial Circuit.

The office will employ attorneys who will represent indigent court defendants. Under the current system, indigent defendants are represented by attorneys appointed by the court from a panel of volunteer attorneys who then bill the court for their time at a set rate.

Seventeen of WV’s thirty circuits already use a public defender office and eight more will soon.

Local attorney Michelle Rusen has been named the chief public defender. Ms. Rusen is a former Wood County Prosecutor and has practiced law including criminal defense, child abuse/neglect, adoptions, family law, administrative appeals, civil matters and appellate work in Wood County for many years.

Plan to attend and learn more about this new-to-Wood-County program. The meeting is open to the public. **Note that the date is a week earlier than most membership meetings.**

Voter November 2015

Looking Ahead

*A Party*

Note the holiday get-together on December 7.

This is an informal gathering for conversation and refreshments, a good opportunity to introduce a friend to the League.

As in the past, members who wish to may bring contributions for the House to Home, a facility where homeless people can shower, launder clothing, use a phone, and so on during daytime hours. Overnight shelters allow people in only for the overnight hours.

 Among the items that are especially welcome: Bedding; blankets, pillows, flannel sheets; Clothes: long underwear, socks, (not clothing in general); Food: packaged snacks or food items heatable in microwave (They don’t have cooking facilities.) Other: toiletry items, toilet paper, coffee cups and other paper products, coffee, creamer, sugar. Monetary contributions also are welcome.

*A Movie*

Plans are underway for a Saturday afternoon, January 23rd showing of ***Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot*** in the Summers Auditorium of the Parkersburg-Wood County Library.

Produced by the Teaching Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, **Selma: The Bridge to the Ballot** “is the true story of the forgotten heroes in the fight for voting rights—the courageous students and teachers of Selma, Alabama, who stood up against injustice despite facing intimidation, arrests and violence. By organizing and marching bravely, these change-makers achieved one of the most significant victories of the civil rights era.”

from <http://selma.splcenter.org/>

 The event will be open to the public and we hope to include other groups. More details will come in the January Voter.

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When getting a D might be good news ?

A recent Charleston Gazette article notes that the Center for Public Integrity’s State Integrity Investigation recently downgraded West Virginia from D+ to D in its grading of states for their openness and transparency in government. And yet, WV moved up in the rankings from 27th to 17th. Only three states were graded higher than D+.

Among the WV deficiencies cited:

* Weak open records laws
* Lack of an appeals process when FOIA requests are denied
* No requirement that lobbyists disclose their compensation
* Federal court decisions that prevent the Secretary of State from enforcing spending limits on independent political groups

The article notes that “Understaffed, underfunded state watchdog agencies are a common theme in the investigation, which found that at least 60 percent of states inadequately fund those agencies.” <http://www.wvgazettemail.com/article/20151109/GZ01/151109469/1137#sthash.3ChL3UUL.dpuf>

The **LWVUS** has submitted [written comments](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=fdM2vJlAwMzXzjjd5ILDUOKKtwqlLhfB) to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Science Advisory Board (SAB). The comments are in regard to the EPA SAB's study on the effects that hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water sources.



LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

**November 2015 Voter**

Membership Meeting

Next Monday, Nov. 16

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.

Everything you always wanted to know about ***ELECTING THE PRESIDENT***

but didn’t know whom to ask

The LWVUS has updated its guide to the election process for 2016 and made it available free as a pdf file. The easiest way to get to it is to do a Google search for *LWVUS Electing the President.*



The **LWVUS** has sent a [letter](http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=5S5jR5rQdw%2Bg69p4nxv2VeKKtwqlLhfB) to the U.S. Senate opposing any attempt to block the implementation of the Administration's Clean Power Plan. Under the Congressional Review Act, Congress can review the implementation of regulations developed by the Administration. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senate offices to discuss this groundbreaking regulation that will save lives and protect the environment.