# League of

Women Voters

Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cdye62@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

Saturday, February 25 2 p.m. **MOVIE**

See right column

**Tell your friends, post on Facebook, & invite guests.**

Monday, March 13 12:30 p.m. LWVWC Board

Meeting, Parkersburg/Wood County Library

Tuesday, March 28 6 p.m. LWVWC Annual Meeting

Colombo’s Restaurant – see page 2

May 6 LWVWC will host the League’s state

convention. Plan to attend.



The League has lost a friend

As most are aware, Wood County lost a remarkable woman last month when Jean Grapes passed away at age 86. Jean was a pioneer, the first woman to be a real estate broker in Wood County, the first and so far only, woman to serve as a member of the Wood County Commission. She worked to establish House to Home, a day center for homeless people. Her activities and accomplishments were too many to list here. She traveled the world. She was admired and loved by her family and many friends.

Jean was a member of the League’s board until the time of her death. She urged us on to aim higher and do more. She was a fervent partisan, but the goal was always to do what she thought was best for the community. Jean was the one who got us to collect items for the homeless and the one who could make the call that got the governor’s wife to speak at an annual meeting. She urged us to see the world, be active in our community, and keep trying to make it work better. We miss her. Our sympathies are with her family.

In Jean’s memory, the League has placed a book at the South Parkersburg Library, *The Art of Tough: Fearlessly Facing Politics and Life* by former US Senator Barbara Boxer, who said, “One goal of this memoir is to inspire people to fight for change.”

Voter February 2017

Come to the MOVIE



**Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 2:00 pm**

**Summers Auditorium**

**Parkersburg and Wood County Public Library**

**3100 Emerson Ave., Parkersburg**

**Open to the public**

***How can we get out from under the system of pay-to-play politics, where politicians reward their donors with public money and special favors?***

**PAY 2 PLAY: Democracy's High Stakes** is an entertaining documentary about the corrupting influence of money in politics featuring **Robert Reich, Lawrence Lessig, Marianne Williamson, Noam Chomsky, Van Jones** and more. The film explores the status quo and offers a set of simple solutions we can all work on together to take back our democracy.

In PAY 2 PLAY, filmmaker John Ennis examines how corporations have taken over our democracy as he follows outsiders using their voice to change the game in American politics.  He ventures through high drama on the Ohio campaign trail, uncovers the secret history of America’s favorite game, and explores the underworld of Los Angeles street art in a humorous odyssey that reveals how much of a difference one person can make.

From http://www.pay2play.tv/

**WV LEGISLATURE**

To date more than 750 bills have been introduced, all are pending in committees. With a few minutes effort you can find out who is on which committees, sent a legislator an email, or read the daily blog of what’s happened. Under the Bill Status tab you can sort bills by topic and set up an account to track specific bills.

Much attention to date is focused on resolving the shortfalls in the current year’s budget and how to balance next year’s. The Governor has proposed a mix of cuts and new revenue, increasing some taxes. Comments from legislative leaders seem to lean toward more cuts and not raising taxes.

Follow the Legislature or watch live streaming at: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/>

Public television’s **The Legislature Today** is back at 6:30 p.m., repeated at 11:30 p.m. weeknights.

Look for The Capitol Eye reports from Citizen Action Group: <http://wvcag.org/>. Their lobbyists are at the Capitol daily.

An updated “Your Government Officials” brochure for Wood County is now available. If you get the Voter by snail mail, one is enclosed. If you get the Voter via email, it is attached for you to print. Copies for the public are being distributed to libraries, city buildings, the court house, and will be available at League meetings and events.

Anyone may make copies. We ask only that no changes be made to the text.

http://ts1.mm.bing.net/th?id=I.4616244523765036&pid=1.7&w=144&h=148&c=7&rs=1Mark your calendar for May 16. The League will host a presentation by the WV Center on Budget and Policy entitled “Why Is West Virginia So Poor?” It will be open to the public.

The center’s web site: <http://www.wvpolicy.org/>

LWV of Wood County

25 Lynnwood Dr.

Vienna WV 26105

Movie: *Pay 2 Play*

Sat. Feb. 25, 2 p.m.

Parkersburg/Wood County Library

Membership in the LWV is open to all.

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.

Page 2 LWVWC Voter Feb. 2017

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be a little different this year, less formal than in previous years. We will meet at Colombo’s Restaurant on Tuesday evening, March 28 at 6 p.m. for a brief business meeting, followed by dinner, ordered from the menu. After dinner we’ll have conversation and discussion.

In order to have the room set up for the right number, we’ll need to have a head count. If you plan to attend, please email Charmaine Dotson and let her know.

[cdye62@suddenlink.net](mailto:cdye62@suddenlink.net) More details in the March Voter.

LWVUS

For recent statements from the national League on immigration, a House committee’s vote to terminate the Election Assistance Commission, claims of voter fraud, the moving forward of the Keystone Pipeline, support for DACA ( Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), and questions for the Supreme Court nominee, see [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Action Alert: LWVUS is urging us to contact our members of Congress and **tell them** **not to repeal the Affordable Care Act without having an alternative in place** that will continue to offer quality health care for all Americans.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that as many as 32 million Americans could lose coverage if ACA is repealed without a replacement. Costs could rise, coverage for pre-existing conditions go away, women paying higher premiums solely based on their gender returns, and young adults now on their parents’ plans lose coverage.