

Newsletter

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

<http://morgantown.lwv.org>

Morgantown-Monongalia County

MAY 2017

ANNUAL MEETING – Saturday, May 20

The MPO and You

CALENDAR

May 6 Saturday	LWV-WV Convention 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Parkersburg
May 17 Wednesday	Legislative Wrap-up LWV and OLLI 6:00-7:30 p.m. Mountaineer Mall Classroom A
May 20 Saturday	Annual Meeting-Luncheon 11:30-2:30 Ali Baba Restaurant 83 Hart Field Drive (Airport) Call Shirley at 304-599-2370 to make your reservation.
July 17 Monday	Board Meeting (tentative) 6:00 Potluck supper Jonathan Rosenbaum's home 531 Woodland Circle

The 2017 Annual Meeting for the Morgantown-Monongalia County LWV will be held Saturday, May 20, at Ali Baba's, 83 Hart Field Drive (Airport), from 11:30-2:30. Our speaker will be Bill Austin, Executive Director for the Morgantown-Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization (MM-MPO). Before coming to



Morgantown in June 2009, Bill Austin worked for four MPO's in various capacities in Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and West Virginia. His transportation expertise led him to be a part of the consultant team for the Miami-

Dade Expressway Authority, preparing traffic and revenue studies for proposed facilities in Florida. Our League has long been concerned about improving traffic conditions in Morgantown and the surrounding area, including pedestrian and cyclist safety. We are very pleased that Bill Austin will give us an overview of the MPO. We are

interested in how the new transportation plan was developed, how the public was involved, major concerns identified in the plan, and what we can expect to see coming out of the plan.

The business meeting will begin at 1:45, and will include adoption of the budget, the election of officers, and the proposed local program. The Board is very excited about the local program, and will spend time discussing ways members can participate in the league the coming year. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

Annual Luncheon

Saturday, May 20, 2017
11:30-12:00 Gathering
Buffet Lunch 12:00 noon
\$18.00/person

Menu

Buffet with meat and vegetarian entrees
Beverage and gratuity are included
***Give your reservation to your caller, or call
Shirley Rosenbaum (304-599-2370)
before Thursday, May 18

**VOTERS SERVICE
LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP
Wednesday, May 17**

The League of Women Voters Morgantown-Monongalia County and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at WVU will sponsor a Legislative Wrap-Up on **Wednesday, May 17** at 6 PM in the OLLI classroom A at the Mountaineer Mall. We have conducted these events in the past and find them very informative as they help community members understand the challenges that our Legislators face during a very grueling 60 days. Legislators will respond to a set of questions that will give them an opportunity to explain what they think went well, what they wanted but were unable to accomplish, and what things especially troubled them.. We plan to complete the wrap-up by 7:30. We will have a short time afterwards for refreshments and conversation. Please plan to attend this event!

****PLEASE NOTE:** Governor Justice has called the Legislature back into session to resolve the state budget. It is possible the legislators will still be in Charleston on May 17, and we will have to postpone the wrap-up forum. Updates will be posted to <http://Wrap-Up.lwvwwv.org> and to our Face Book page <http://facebook.com/lwvwwv>

Please plan to pay your dues when you come to the annual meeting May 20! Currently dues are \$48 for an individual, \$72 for a household (two at the same address), and \$24 for a student. Checks should be made to **LWV Morgantown-Mon County**. (Dues and luncheon may be paid with one check).

Dues may be mailed to: Lyndell Millecchia, Treasurer, 476 Lawnview Drive, Morgantown, WV 26505. You can also pay with your credit card at <http://tinyurl.com/paylwvmm> or you may send money from your PayPal account to mmtreasury@lwvwwv.org .

**LWV-WV CONVENTION
Saturday, May 6**

Four members from Morgantown will be going to the State Convention in Parkersburg: Jonathan Rosenbaum and Shirley Rosenbaum as State Board Members, and Vicki Conner and Barbara Brown as Delegates. We are very excited that Jonathan has been nominated to be the next President of LWV-WV!

**SOLAR HAPPY HOUR
Wednesday, May 24th**

5:30-7:00pm
Mountain State Brewing Co.
54 Clay St.
Morgantown, WV 26501

Join WV SUN, the WV Sierra Club, the Morgantown Green Team, and the League of Women Voters to celebrate the success of the 2016 North Central Solar Co-op and the 2015 Morgantown Solar Co-op! We also welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about solar energy to join us at this event.

Note: we will be giving a “Democracy in Action” award at the Annual Meeting!

**MORGANTOWN CITY COUNCIL
ELECTION RESULTS**

Ward	Candidate
1	Rachel Fetty
2	Bill Kawecki
3	Ryan Wallace
4	Jenny Selin
5	Ronald Dulaney
6	Mark Brazaitis
7	Barry Wendell

Congratulations to League members **Bill Kawecki** and **Barry Wendell**, and to all the other candidates. The new Council will be sworn in on July 1.

Proposed Budget 2017-2018

	Current Budget 2016-2017	Proposed Budget 2017-2018
INCOME		
Dues (\$44-48 primary, \$22-24 additional)	\$ 2,266.00	\$ 2,640.00
Member Contributions	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Checks from Fund Raising Letter	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Fund Raiser & misc. contrib.	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Reserves (general)	\$ 963.50	\$ 765.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 3,929.50	\$ 4,105.00
EXPENSES		
Board and Administrative Committees		
President	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Secretary	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Treasurer	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Board Tools and Expenses	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Finance Committee (fund raising)	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Membership Committee	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
PayPal Fees	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Delegates, Travel, and Affiliations		
State Convention/Council	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
National Convention	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Financial Support for the League		
State LWV (\$11 primary, \$5.50 additional)	\$ 566.50	\$ 605.00
National LWV (\$32 primary, \$16 additional)	\$ 1,648.00	\$ 1,760.00
Newsletter	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Educational Activities		
Publications (Guide to Gov. Officials)	\$ 200.00	\$ 225.00
Program Committees	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Voters Service (Forum room fees, handouts, mailings)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Publicity	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
Position Support		
Publications on League Positions	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Miscellaneous Action	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,929.50	\$ 4,105.00

Dues and PMP for **2016-17** are based on February 1, 2016 count: 46 primary, 11 additional (57 total).

Dues increased from \$44 to \$48 primary, \$22 to \$24 additional beginning January 2017.

Dues and PMP for **2017-18** are based on February 1, 2017 count of 49 primary, 12 additional (61 total).

Budget Committee: Penny Thomas, Chair; Lyndell Millecchia

Proposed Local Program 2017-2018

The Program of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County shall consist of:

- a) Action to protect the right to vote of every citizen, and to encourage informed participation in governmental processes.
- b) Those government issues chosen for concerted study and action.

The recommended issues chosen for 2017-2018 are as follows:

1. Voters Service:

- a. Advocate for open access to registration and voting.
 - Monitor new legislative proposals on voter registration and voter ID. Actively work to oppose any legislation that would potentially restrict voting and actively work to support laws making voting easier.
 - Support efforts to make redistricting non-partisan as the 2020 census approaches.
- b. Increase voter turnout.
 - Interview city/county officials, party committees, and other organizations to identify roadblocks to voting (educational/informational roadblocks, access to polling places, etc.)
 - Work with stakeholders to develop a plan to overcome obstacles.
- c. Study campaign finance legislation; fight any effort to make campaign funding less evident and more open to wealthy voters to the detriment of the rest of the voters.

2. Social Justice:

- a. Work with governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure that Morgantown and Monongalia County become inclusive environments for all populations.
 - Identify groups currently working in this arena (CCSJ, OCOF, Fairness WV, CCOH, Catholic Charities, etc.)
 - Assess whether inclusion is an issue in our area, and if so, possible targets for discrimination. Identify at-risk groups.
- b. Look at state laws and ordinances dealing with LGBTQ rights and other issues around discrimination. Monitor legislative efforts to enact “religious freedom restoration” types of laws.
- c. Study “sanctuary cities” efforts; explore the possibility of becoming a city to welcome immigrants (refugee resettlement).

3. Natural Resources:

- a. Study water quality in the Monongahela River including Morgantown Utility Board and Department of Natural Resources testing.
- b. Monitor Source Water Protection Program (SWPP). Have a meeting with an expert.
- c. Strategize and act to promote an efficient county solid waste recycling program.

4. Local Government:

Establish an Observer Corps with a leader to coordinate league attendance at City Council, County Commission, and other local entities.

5. Education

Prepare to act on emerging issues concerning school choice, vouchers, and national or state changes. Be familiar with the recent LWV-US consensus on Education.

6. Transportation:

- a. Monitor and take action where needed with regard to improving traffic conditions, including pedestrian and cyclist safety.
- b. Monitor the implementation of the Complete Streets legislation so that the design of our transportation system can be inclusive of all forms of transportation.