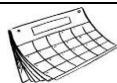


League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cdye62@suddenlink.net
Local Voter: Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net
LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

November/December 2017



Mark Your Calendar

Sat. Nov. 18 2:00 p.m. Movie: *Where to Invade Next*
Board meeting at 1:00 p.m.
See below
November 23 Happy Thanksgiving
Sat. Dec. 9 1:30 p.m. Holiday Party
At the home of Jane Burdette →

MOVIE Sat. November 18, 2:00 p.m.
South Parkersburg Library meeting room
(Never mind the title)



“Filmmaker Michael Moore visits various countries to examine how Europeans view work, education, health care, sex, equality, and other issues. From cafeteria food to sex ed, Moore looks at the benefits of schooling in France, Finland and Slovenia. In Italy, he marvels at how workers enjoy reasonable hours and generous vacation time. In Portugal,

Moore notes the effects of the decriminalization of drugs. Through his travels, we discover just how different America is from the rest of the world.”

Free to all – Bring a friend

Note that the board will meet at 1:00 p.m

Special Dues Rate for New Members
Bring a friend to the 11/18 movie

Thanks to a grant from the state League, dues for new members only are \$25 for their first year of membership.

For those who did not know, after decades in Parkersburg and the LWVWC, Teresa and Al Kimmel have relocated to Virginia. For their new address, email ksstoltz@suddenlink.net. We wish them well in their new home.



Holiday Party

Sooner than we think, the holidays will be here. Plan to attend our get together on Sat. December 9th at 1:30 p.m. at the home of Jane Burdette. Her address is 2500 Brooklyn Drive, Parkersburg. If you are able, a snack or dessert of finger food to share would be welcome.

Directions: If you drive out 23rd Street so that City Park is on your right and Mt. Olivet Cemetery on your left, Brooklyn is the first street on the left after the cemetery. If you come from the other direction, Brooklyn will be the first right turn after you pass the City Park exit that is on your left.



Due to ‘The Big Fire’, our October meeting disappeared in the smoke. We hope no one was inconvenienced by our cancellation of the Oct. 23 meeting due to concern about the air quality in downtown Parkersburg and the fact that many government buildings and businesses were closed. We plan to reschedule it sometime after the first of the year.

We’ve all been following the news and noting the many unanswered questions about the cause of the fire, the demands on local resources to fight it, and concern over how the conditions that made it so difficult to contain were allowed to exist. Weeks later we still don’t know what was in the smoke that area residents had to breathe.

There’s not a lot that we as individuals can do, but one thing we *can* do is talk to our local officials to ask what’s being done locally and ask legislators if they will be looking at whether laws and rules are adequate and if there is adequate funding to enforce them.

Doesn’t it seem like we always try to fix things only after a disaster has happened?

Our League lost a longtime and valued member recently when Louise Long passed away. A woman of many talents and accomplishments, Louise contributed to her community in many ways. She and Carl were a familiar sight at events both in and outside of the League. We will miss Louise and send our sympathies to Carl and their family.

Elections & Voter ID – a Primer

Though no statewide elections are scheduled until the Primary next May, There is a change coming that merits attention. Starting January first, WV voters will be required to present some form of identification at the polls.

This change originated in 2016 in the House of Delegates as a strict photo ID law of the sort that has been the subject of much controversy over whether its purpose is actually to suppress voting by certain groups. The introduced bill was amended so that WV voters will have a long list of documents that will be considered a “valid identifying document.” The law takes effect January 1, 2018.

Voters need to know of the change and what they need to take to the polls. The Secretary of State plans a statewide education effort, which the law requires. To that end the Secretary convened a meeting recently with representatives of a broad range of groups and constituencies represented, including representatives of the LWV of WV, to gather information about how best to inform voters of the change and assure that no one is denied their right to vote because of a lack of ID.

The Secretary’s staff plans to make materials such as posters available for wide distribution as well as encouraging civic groups and media to help inform voters. The staff includes field representatives in locations around the state who will be part of the educational efforts.

As League members, we will get asked about this change. My short answer has been, take your wallet with you when you vote and you will surely have one of these documents with you. This will work for most of us, but not everyone. There are people entitled to vote who have none of them, and there are options for them. See the next column for acceptable “valid identifying documents” and you will be ready to answer questions.

Valid Identifying Documents

A document with the voter’s name that was issued by the State of WV or its subsidiaries or the US Government, OR one of the following:

Must be valid (not expired) and have the voter’s name

- Driver’s license
- Passport or passport card
- A photo employee, student, or military ID or concealed carry permit
- Medicare or Social Security card
- Birth certificate
- Voter registration card
- Hunting or fishing license
- An ID card for SNAP or TANIF or Medicaid benefits
- Health insurance card
- Bank or debit card
- Utility bill or bank statement (from within 6 months of election)

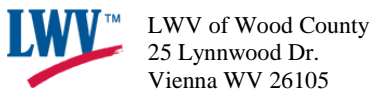
Residents of licensed care facilities are exempt from ID requirements. There is no change in absentee voting procedures.

There are two options for those with no ID, an affidavit from someone who knows and accompanies the voter and for someone known personally by the poll worker.

Registered voters will also be able to get a free photo “Voter ID” card through their county clerk’s office with no further documentation than is required for being a registered voter. (A state issued photo ID is available through DMV, but requires more documentation.)

Homeless people may use the address of a shelter to register to vote.

Anyone who appears at the polls and is denied a ballot is entitled to cast a provisional ballot, the validity of which will be evaluated in the canvass following the election.



November 18 Movie: Where to Invade Next (peacefully)



December 9 Holiday Party

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.