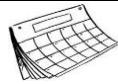


League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

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



Mark Your Calendar

- Mon. Jan. 22 6:30 p.m. Membership meeting
See below
- Mon. Feb. 5 6:00 p.m. Citizen Lobby Training
See column at right
- Mon. Feb. 12 12 noon LWVWC Board Meeting
Das Rookhaus, 2911 Dudley Ave.
- Sat. Feb. 24 1:30 p.m. Movie *Blood on the Mountain*
Vienna Library – see next column

MEMBERSHIP MEETING GUESTS WELCOME



Finding your way Around the WV Legislature ONLINE

**Monday, January 22, 6:30 p.m.
Parkersburg City Building
Large conference room, 2nd floor**

Our state legislature has an excellent web site where you can see what bills have been introduced, find bills on a given subject, track a bill, read its text, see how members voted, read state code, watch live streaming of sessions, and so much more. BUT, like visiting any unfamiliar place, it takes some effort to find your way around. Your GPS doesn't work here.

At our January meeting Mark Rhodes and Kathy Stoltz will be your guides so you can be better informed without getting lost. We'll put the web page on a big screen and show you where to click to find out what you want to know.

If you know others who would like to become better legislative navigators, please invite them.

Note that the meeting is at 6:30 because the city building is now closing at 8 p.m.

Once you know how to track legislation, learn how to make your voice heard. See next column

Voter

January 2018

Your Voice WV: Citizen Lobbyist Training

WV FREE and AFSC-WV (American Friends Service Committee) are organizing Citizen Lobbyist Training sessions at various locations around the state. The LWWVW has signed on as a co-sponsor and will participate at some of the locations. They are open to anyone who wants to learn how to effectively lobby your representatives on issues that matter to you.

One of these sessions will be in Parkersburg on **Monday, February 5 from 6p.m. to 8p.m. in the Judge Black Courthouse Annex.**

More information at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/206310856594100/>

This year's legislative session opened on January 10 and ends March 10th. Some sources of coverage:
WV public broadcasting: on television (Suddenlink cable channel 12) weeknights at 6p.m. and 11p.m., the WVPB2 (137) at 11p.m. & 6a.m., on radio at 90.3 FM at 6p.m., and by podcast (<https://feedpress.me/legtodaypodcast>).

Online, check the legislature's web site for its blog and the web sites of groups like Citizen Action Group, WV Free, OVEC, etc. Also try WV Metro News (www.wvmetronews.com), and the news on WV local TV channel web sites. WOWK (channel 13) has a half hour at 10:30 Sunday mornings that covers the legislature.

2018 Legislative Calendar

January 10 First day of session.

January 29 Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due.

February 13 Last day to introduce bills in the House.

February 1 Last day to introduce bills in the Senate

February 25 Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for reading

February 28 Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin.

March 10 Adjournment at midnight

February 24 Movie: "*Blood on the Mountain*" is a searing investigation into the economic and environmental injustices that have resulted from coal company control in West Virginia. This feature documentary details the struggles of a hard-working, misunderstood people, who have historically faced limited choices and have never benefited fairly from the rich, natural resources of their land."

LWVWV Legislative Priorities

The LWVWV has adopted the priorities below for the 2018 legislative session. Each legislator receives a letter with this information. As usual we also will be watching for other issues of interest to the League.

This year we are fortunate to have Julie Archer as a member of the LWVWV state board. Julie works for Citizen Action Group and will be in the Capitol during the session on their behalf. She will also lobby for the League when appropriate.

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia:

- *Supports maintaining West Virginia's water quality standards to protect this valuable resource.*
- *Supports strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including independent expenditures and election-related communications.*
- *Supports establishment of an independent commission to draw up redistricting plans for representatives to the US House of Representatives and the WV Legislature.*
- *Supports measures that encourage investment in energy efficiency in West Virginia's homes, businesses, and industries such as the LEEP program.*
- *Supports maintaining expanded Medicaid coverage for the hundreds of thousands of West Virginians who rely on it for health care.*

CLEAN WATER – message from Helen Gibbins, LWVWV board member who oversees all things environmental

The Public Water System Supply Study Commission issued a report and recommendations for legislative improvements for the protection of WV's drinking water systems. The report was addressed to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House. The Water Policy Work Group, made up of environmental organizations including the League, is including the recommendations of the PWSSC in its legislative platform.

Problem -- the Bureau of Public Health cannot ask to present its report and recommendations to a legislative committee. It has to be asked to present the report.

League members are asked to contact local members of the Senate and House's Health and Human Resources Committees and ask that they request the Committee to schedule the report in one of its committee meetings, preferably early in the session so that there will be time to consider the recommended improvements.

Local members of the committees are Senator Mike Azinger and Delegate Vernon Criss. See <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/> for contact information by phone, email, or letter.

*Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.
Pericles (c. 495–429 BC)*



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105



MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Finding your way
Around the WV Legislature
ONLINE
Monday, January 22, 6:30 p.m.

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.