

**The League of Women
Voters of the
Huntington Area**



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LWVWV www.LWVWV.ORG
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MAY 2018 BULLETIN, Patricia Keller, Editor

“TEAM FOR WEST VIRGINIA CHILDREN” MEETING Laurie McKeown will be the speaker at the League’s May 21 program, 6:30 pm at Woodlands Retirement Community. Laurie is the executive director for “Team”, a non-profit organization whose Vision Statement “envisions West Virginia as a state where all children can grow and thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationship, free from abuse and neglect, so they will achieve their maximum potential as adults.”

“Team’s strategies are to operate and partner with an integrated network of programs to Advocate for children, Champion eco-friendly communities; Educate the public; and Strengthen families.”

Laurie will talk about Team’s programs and ways individuals and organizations can assist Team in its mission.

YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS We sponsored or co-sponsored five candidates meetings; worked with the Herald -Dispatch on its special elections issue; provided Vote information flyers for the Road Bond Amendment election and the primary election.

We took action on Medicaid, LEEP, SNAP, timbering in state parks, drinking water protection, and the Clean Power Plan.

We provided information for “*Directory of Public Officials and Personnel*” on the Herald-Dispatch’s website and printed “Your Governmental Officials” brochure, “Bill of Rights” book marks, and “Guide to WV Legislators” (Cabell and Wayne Counties).

We sponsored monthly public meetings on local, state, and national issues.

We sponsored a table at the Huntington Sustainability Fair.

We presented the “Right to Vote Readers Theater” to Mountwest students.

CLIMATE CHANGE Environmentalists cite climate change as the cause of our experiencing more droughts, floods, forest fires, and rising sea levels. The American Lung Association published a new report that also points to climate change as worsening air pollution in communities across the country, contributing to a range of health problems from asthma to premature death.

“The total number of Americans exposed to unhealthy air rose to nearly 134 million, according to the group’s 2018 State of the Air report. That represents a spike from 125 million in the previous year.

“Ozone pollution — commonly known as smog — sits at the heart of America’s worsening air pollution problem. Warmer temperatures create conditions conducive to smog formation and lead air to stagnate, keeping dirty air from leaving a given area. The number of days with unsafe levels of ozone pollution increased significantly in 2014 – 2016, the timeframe evaluated in the report, at the same time as the planet experienced the [hottest years on record.](#)”

“Federal law requires the EPA to administer ...the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, using best available science without considering the cost to industry.” But we have seen that the present administration is weakening all of the steps that the United States has taken to reduce our impact on the climate.

It is up to us to let our public officials know that we do not want our country and planet to continue on this disastrous course.

Dues for the LWV of the Huntington Area may be paid now; \$45 single members; \$60 two in a household; free for full-time students. Mail to 8 Partridge Court, Huntington, WV 25705

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
6128 GIDEON ROAD
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

CALENDAR

May 21, 6:30 - League meeting at Woodlands
June 16 - Ohio River Sweep to remove litter. Check www.OhioRiverSweep.org for information.
July 16-20 - National Disability Voter Registration Week. Cabell County Library

SUPREME COURT AND PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING

Two cases are before the Court. *Gill v. Whitford* challenges Wisconsin's state legislative map, determined by Republicans. The League's brief in this case argues that partisan gerrymandering violates the First Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution. In Maryland, *Benisek v. Lamone* challenges the partisan gerrymandered Congressional districting passed by Democrats. If the Court declares the states' maps unconstitutional, the decision could impact congressional maps nationwide.

The League believes Congressional and governmental legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. We oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights away from voters. Political and racial gerrymandering distorts and undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters to elect their officials. When done for purposes of racial discrimination or to ensure the dominance of one political party, gerrymandering runs counter to equal voting rights for all eligible voters. We promote transparent and accountable redistricting processes. We believe responsibility for

fair redistricting in states and localities should be vested in independent special commissions, with membership that reflects the diversity of the appropriate unit of government.

In the 2018 WV legislative session the League supported bills that would have allowed for a nonpartisan citizen commission to present a redistricting plan to the WV Legislature, but they were not acted on. The legislature still has time to establish a redistricting commission.

NATIONAL DISABILITY VOTER REGISTRATION WEEK.

The Cabell County library will participate in the NDVRW from July 16-20. In order to alert the public to this cause wear colored ribbons or the sashes we used at our 19th amendment march in 2000. The colors used by the suffragists were white, purple, and gold.

READING AND STREAMING SUGGESTIONS

ProPublica - "The Coal Industry Extracted a Steep Price From West Virginia. Now Natural Gas Is Leading the State Down the Same Path." (By Ken Ward, Charleston Gazette)

American Public Health Association, "The Role of Health in Climate Litigation", April 26, 2018

PBS TV Independent Lens, "What Lies Upstream". New insights into the Elk River chemical spill.

HUNTINGTON'S BROWNFIELD SITES The US EPA will award \$800,000 to Huntington to support cleanup of sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Cleaning up the sites will make them available for economic development.