

# Newsletter

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

<http://morgantown.lwv.org>

Morgantown-Monongalia County

MAY-JUNE 2018

### ANNUAL MEETING – Saturday, June 9

#### CALENDAR

**June 9**  
Saturday  
**Annual Meeting-Luncheon**  
11:45-2:30  
Ali Baba Restaurant  
83 Hart Field Drive (Airport)  
**Call Shirley at 304-599-2370**  
**to make your reservation.**

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

#### MORGANTOWN MAYOR TO SPEAK

The 2018 Annual Meeting for the Morgantown-Monongalia County LWV will be held Saturday, June 9, at Ali Baba's, 83 Hart Field Drive (Airport), from 11:45-2:30. Our speaker will be



Bill Kawecki, Mayor of the City of Morgantown. He will tell us about some of the accomplishments of the city this year, and will also focus on future developments planned to help Morgantown

become more welcoming (such as pedestrian bridges, benches, and bus shelters). He will discuss a workshop he and County Commissioner Sean Sikora are currently working on to help improve communications and planning among municipalities and the County Commission. They hope the workshop will help the county and cities be more proactive in solving mutual problems.

We will be presenting Democracy in Action awards. The business meeting will begin at 1:45, and will include adoption of the budget, vote on the dues change for students, election of officers, and adoption of the proposed local program. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

#### Annual Luncheon

Saturday, June 9, 2018  
11:45-12:00 Gathering  
Buffet Lunch 12:00 noon  
**\$18.00/person**

#### Menu

Buffet with meat and vegetarian selections  
***Beverage and gratuity are included***

\*\*\*Give your reservation to your caller, or call Shirley Rosenbaum (304-599-2370)  
by Thursday, June 7

## VOTERS SERVICE

In April, the League co-sponsored three candidate forums with Mountaineers for Progress (MFP). The League facilitated the first forum for the County Commission and the Board of Education. The other two forums, for the House of Delegates and First District of the House of Representatives were facilitated by MFP.

All the forums were well attended, with the forum for the House of Delegates the most energetic. There were many questions from the audience at all the forums.

The Board of Education election was a final election. Sara Anderson, Michael Kelly, and Melanie Baker Rogers were elected.

In November, Tom Bloom (D) will run against Andrew Price (R) for County Commission.

For the House of Delegates from the 51st District, Democrats Barbara Fleischauer, Evan Hansen, Danielle Walker, John Williams and Rodney Pyles will run against Republicans Cindy Frich, Roger Shuttlesworth, Joe Statler, and Debbie Warner. Five will be elected.

For the First Congressional District, Democrat Kendra Fershee will run against incumbent Republican David McKinley.

Because of co-sponsoring the forums with MFP, in comparison to similar forums we have hosted in previous years, there was an increase in the number of volunteers who provided food and helped run the forums, and an increase in attendance. One exciting benefit was sharing the planning process with MFP.

## LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

**Please plan to pay your dues when you come to the annual meeting June 9!** Currently dues are \$48 for an individual and \$72 for a household (two at the same address). 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@lwvww.org](mailto:mmtreasury@lwvww.org). Contributions are also welcomed and encouraged. **(Membership dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.**

## DUES CHANGE

Many Leagues feel that cost is a barrier for students who want to join the LWV. In order to encourage younger members to become active, both the National and State Leagues have voted to waive the per member payment (PMP) for students. The Budget Committee therefore recommends that the Student Dues be lowered from \$22 to \$5.00 per year. This recommendation will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

*We welcome new member Steven Marra.*

## Proposed Budget 2018-2019

	Budget 2017-2018	Proposed 2018-2019
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dues (\$48 Individual, \$72 Household)	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 2,200.00
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)	\$ 765.00	\$ 615.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 4,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,515.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Board and Administrative Committees</b>		
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
<b>Delegates, Travel, and Affiliations</b>		
State Convention/Council	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
National Convention	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
<b>Financial Support for the League</b>		
State LWV (\$8 primary, \$4 additional in 2018)	\$ 605.00	\$ 400.00
National LWV (\$32 primary, \$16 additional)	\$ 1,760.00	\$ 1,600.00
<b>Newsletter</b>	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Educational Activities</b>		
Publications (Guide to Gov. Officials) *	\$ 225.00	\$ -
Program Committees	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Voters Service (Forum room fees, handouts, mailings)	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Publicity	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
<b>Position Support</b>		
Publications on League Positions	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Miscellaneous Action	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 4,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,515.00</b>

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

Dues and PMP for 2018-19 are based on February 1, 2018 count: 44 primary, 12 additional (56 total)

\* The Stern-Lloyd Grant from 2017 was used for publication of the Guide to Government Officials in 2017.

**Recommendation:** The Budget Committee recommends that the student dues be **reduced** from \$22 to \$5 per year.  
Budget Committee: Chair, Catherine Lozier; member, Lyndell Millecchia

## **Proposed Local Program 2018-2019**

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 2018-2019 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.