

League of Women Voters of Wood County WV

President: Charmaine Dotson 304-428-1076, cyde62@suddenlink.net

Local Voter: Kathy Stoltz, 304-295-7880, ksstoltz@suddenlink.net

LWVWV www.lwvwwv.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

March 2019



Mark Your Calendar

Friday, March 22 6 p.m. LWVWC Annual Meeting

Colombo's Restaurant

Monday, April 8 noon LWVWC Board Meeting

Parkersburg/Wood County Library

Saturday April 13 LWVWV State Convention

Morgantown



LWVWC Annual Meeting

Friday, March 22, 6:00 p.m.

Colombo's Restaurant

Guest speaker will be **Will Hosaflook, Superintendent of Wood County Schools**. A graduate of Marshall University Mr. Hosaflook was formerly the principal of Ripley High School, where he had been a teacher and vice-principal. He was hired as Wood County Superintendent in May of 2018.

With so much attention in the recent legislative session focused on education, and complaints that the omnibus bill was crafted without input from educators, we look forward to hearing Mr. Hosaflook's view.

Your guests are welcome. Those attending will order dinner from the menu. You can check the menu at: <http://colombosrest.com/>. There will be a brief business meeting following the speaker.

If you plan to attend, please contact Charmaine Dotson by Monday (March 18) at cyde62@suddenlink.net or 304-428-1076 so she can notify Colombo's how many places to set. They may be able to accommodate a few late additions.

Dues reminder: The new League year starts April 1. The treasurer would be happy to take your check at the annual meeting. New members who join the LWVWC now pay only \$25 for the first year. For new members joining now their first year lasts through March of 2020. Ask a friend to join us at Colombo's and to join the League. Regular dues are \$45 plus \$25 for each additional member at the same address.



WV Legislature 2019: What they did and what they didn't

Action on LWVWV Legislative Priorities

Note that many of the bills passed have not yet been signed by the Governor.

► *LWVWV supports maintaining West Virginia's water standards to reflect EPA recommended human health criteria. **SB163** pertained to setting standards for water quality. After removing the 60 chemicals that EPA and the state DEP wanted included, the bill passed both houses. A joint resolution that would have authorized a joint committee to study water quality standards was adopted by the Senate but not taken up in the House.*

► *LWVWV supports establishment of an independent commission to draw up redistricting plans for representatives to the US House of Representatives and the WV Legislature. **SB118 & HB2445** would have done this, but neither was taken up by Judiciary Committee.*

► *LWVWV supports measures that encourage investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency in West Virginia's homes, businesses, and industries.*

SB409 would allow third-party ownership of renewable and alternative generating facilities. For example, a third party could install solar panels on a building owned by a non-profit and sell the energy to the owner at rates lower than the power company's rates. Not taken up by the Senate Energy Committee.

HB2829, HB3142, and HB3144, which all passed both houses, encourage development of non-renewable resources by cutting or rebating severance taxes on coal, limestone, and sandstone.

► *LWVWV Supports maintaining expanded Medicaid coverage for the hundreds of thousands of West Virginians who rely on it for health care.*

SB564 was passed. It expands Medicaid coverage for pregnancy and postpartum care of mother and infant by raising income limits. **HB3161**, a bill including a work requirement for Medicaid recipients did not pass.

► *LWVWV supports strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including Dark money.*

SB 115 would have improved reporting of dark money campaign contributions, but was not taken up. Instead, they amended **SB622** to weaken its disclosure requirements but kept the increased contribution limits and passed that. See page 4

continued, page 2

SB491 extends the time limit for implementing automatic voter registration (AVR) at DMV. Its passage allows time for DMV to make the necessary changes to its procedures and systems.

Sadly, several other bills that would have improved our elections failed to see the light of day. Among them:

SB 108 and **HB2008** would have provided for a runoff if no candidate for the Supreme Court of Appeals got at least 40% of the vote, so we could again see someone elected with just over a quarter of the votes cast. **SB429** would have allowed someone to register and vote on the same day during early voting. **SB438** would have required the Secretary of State to publish a statewide online voters guide. **SB276** would have outlawed foreign contributions to political campaigns.

Some other bills of general interest:

Passed, awaiting the governor's action:

SB4 makes the home rule program permanent and allows more cities to apply. Failure would have punched a big hole in the budgets that have come to count on the revenue from municipal sales taxes.

HCR32 allows the Secretary of Transportation to raise the speed limit to 75mph on interstates and 70 on Appalachian Corridor highways.

HB2583 allows pharmacists to dispense contraceptives without a prescription to women over 18 under specified circumstances.

Passed, signed by the governor:

HB2459 exempts WV from the federal requirement that people convicted of drug crimes are denied SNAP benefits (food stamps). WV is one of the last states to take this step.

Bills that did not pass:

At least seven bills were introduced to add sexual orientation and gender identity to groups protected by WV's anti-discrimination laws. None was taken up by a committee.

SB451, the omnibus education bill passed by the Senate, included provisions for charter school, education savings accounts to be used at all kinds of schools, teacher pay, the school calendar, and more, some of which was good and some not good for our schools. After many attempts to amend it, the House offered an amended version that was unacceptable to the Senate and the bill died. The governor called for a special session sometime in the coming months to address teacher and service personnel pay and educational reform in general. We can hope that legislators will agree to take more manageable bites and pass those that both houses can swallow.

SB266 would have created an intermediate court of appeals. It passed the senate but was not taken up in the house. Reportedly they balked at the projected cost.

A budget bill passed days before the end of the session. The majority likes to brag that they have passed a budget without having to have a costly special session, The problem with is that a great many bills that have been stewing in committees or waiting on the shelf get taken up in the last few days of the session and good bills can die because the funding wasn't provided for in the budget.

The bills mentioned above are only a sampling of 1823 bills introduced this year. Of that total 294 were passed by both houses. As of 3/13, the governor had signed 40 and vetoed 2.

To read the provisions of any bill, go to "bill status" at <http://www.wvlegislature.gov> and enter the number of the bill (digits only) or click on Subject to search for bills on a topic. To read a selected bill, select the enrolled version of the bill text.

Proposed Local Program for 2019-20

To be voted on at March 22 annual meeting

1. **ZONING** Support sound zoning.
2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
 - A. Oppose primaries in municipal elections, with certain exceptions.
 - B. Support measures to facilitate annexation, upgrade city services, and improve the area's appearance
 - C. Support full implementation and continuation of the strong-mayor charter for the city of Parkersburg.
 - D. Support clarification of mayoral appointive powers, creation of office of Mayoral Administrative Assistant, and an independent audit of city finances for the city of Parkersburg.
3. **EDUCATION**
 - A. Support re-evaluation of the Wood County School System.
 - B. Support measures to improve the financial structure of the Wood County School System.
4. **HEALTH SERVICES**
 - A. Support adequate financing for mental health programs
 - B. Support the idea that mental health services be delivered on a community level.

Note: These are locally adopted positions, which apply only in Wood County. Our local League is bound by and operates under all state and national League positions as well.

Election of Officers/Directors

To be voted on at annual meeting

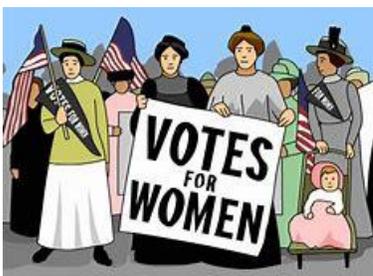
President	2019-21	Charmaine Dotson
1 st Vice President	2019-21	Kathy Stoltz
Secretary	2019-21	Mary Ann Layne

Directors	2019-21	Lydia Cobranchi
	2019-21	to be announced
	2019-21	to be announced

Nominating Committee to be announced
The other officers' and directors' terms expire in 2020.

League of Women Voters of Wood County
Proposed Budget 2019-20
 To be voted on at annual meeting

	Budget FY 18-19	Actual to 2/28/19	Proposed FY 19-20
INCOME			
Dues, members	1000	1015	1000
Contributions, members	80	90	60
Contributions, non-members	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	10	0	10
From Reserves	535	0	205
	<u>1625</u>	<u>1105</u>	<u>1275</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Administrative Expense			
President	50	0	50
Speaker gifts	20	0	20
Secretary of State fee	25	25	25
Other (memorial)	0	0	0
Program and Activities			
Publications, Voter, roster, copier	300	0	200
Voter Service	200	0	0
Membership meetings, travel	40	0	40
Annual Meeting (speaker)	40	0	40
Delegates			
LWVWV Convention/Council	0	0	0
LWV Dues			
Per member payment, LWV US	800	730	700
Per member payment, LWV WV	250	184	200
	<u>1625</u>	<u>939</u>	<u>1275</u>
Savings account balance	2228.83		
Marion Weiser 3/9/19			



The first time the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was introduced in the U.S. Senate was January 10, 1878. Susan B Anthony had written the two sentences: **The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex. Congress shall have the power, by appropriate legislation, to enforce the provisions of this article.**

Over the following decades the amendment was introduced many times before finally being adopted by both houses of Congress in 1919 and the process of ratification by the states began. Miss Anthony's words remained the same.

Take Action: The message below about SB622 is from Citizens for Clean Elections. The LWVWV is a member of this coalition. As noted inside, this bill passed with increased donation limits, but without improving disclosure of who is paying to influence our elections. You can help by urging Governor Justice to veto this bill. Email www.governor.wv.gov or call 1-888-438-2731.

SB 622 dramatically increases the amount an individual can give to a candidates, political action committees and political parties. Yet most West Virginians can't afford to give \$1,000 to their favorite candidates, let alone the new, nearly tripled upper limit of \$2,800.

We want to have our voices heard, but SB 622 goes against this and gives a greater voice to the wealthy and special interests that try to buy our elections — and that's wrong!

We have contribution limits to prevent corruption, but the other important function of contribution limits is to ensure that all West Virginians, no matter how much they make, have an equal voice and equal representation with their state elected officials. SB 622 violates this fundamental principle of fairness. Governor Justice should veto SB 622 and say NO to more big money in West Virginia elections.

Thanks for your support in the fight for a democracy that works for everyone!



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

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Friday, March 22, 6:00 p.m.
Colombo's Restaurant

Legislative Update inside

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.