

League of Women Voters of Wood County WV

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

Voter

April 2019



Mark Your Calendar

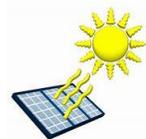
Saturday April 13 LWVWV State Convention

Morgantown

Monday, April 22 6 p.m. Membership meeting – see below

Monday May 13 noon LWVWC board meeting

Wood County Library



Meeting Monday, April 22, 6 p.m. Parkersburg City Council Chambers

A local authority on solar energy will speak to the League at 6 p.m. April 22 in the Parkersburg City Council chambers. Chip Pickering started Pickering Energy Solutions, a West Virginia company that installs, owns and maintains solar photovoltaic power systems in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

Pickering is the chief executive officer of Pickering Associates, an architectural and engineering firm in Parkersburg, and vice president of Davis, Pickering and Co., an electrical contracting firm in Marietta. He is responsible for development, training and construction quality programs for Davis Pickering.

He is a professional engineer, a project management professional and has a LEED certification for building design and construction. Pickering also is a certified photovoltaic installer through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners.

Pickering's company mission is to encourage, develop and facilitate the use of solar and other forms of renewable energy. Pickering Energy Solutions brings individuals and organizations that would like to incorporate renewable energy into their lives together with investors that are looking to invest in renewable energy technologies.

The meeting is open to the public.

Help spread the word by inviting others who might be interested.

Dues reminder: The new League year started April 1. New members who join the LWVWC now pay only \$25 for the first year. Ask a friend to join. Regular dues are \$45 plus \$25 for each additional member at the same address. Payable to LWVWC, mail to 1 Fox Hill Drive, Parkersburg WV 26104. Thank you to those who have already paid!



For the People Act

H.R. 1

From LWVUS 3/27/2019

WASHINGTON – The League of Women Voters is proud to support the For the People Act, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 1 that passed the U.S. House of Representatives on March 8. Today, League of Women Voters CEO Virginia Kase released the following statement in support of this important legislation:

“This is the democracy reform bill the American people want and deserve. The For the People Act will make voting easier and more accessible by modernizing our elections and putting power back in the hands of the American voters. It’s time to pass this legislation and make it law of the land in time for our next election.

“The League of Women Voters was proud to engage voters and build support that led to the passage of H.R. 1 in the House of Representatives. We fought to include Same Day Registration in the bill, which increases voter participation, and we continue to push for public financing in our elections, which helps more women run for office.

“We look forward to helping advance this bill that builds on the promise of forming a more perfect democracy, and we encourage all elected officials to support this legislation that works for the American people.”

The bill has been introduced in the US Senate. League members are urged to contact Senators Manchin and Capito and ask them to support H.R. 1.

Sen. Joseph Manchin call 202-224-3954

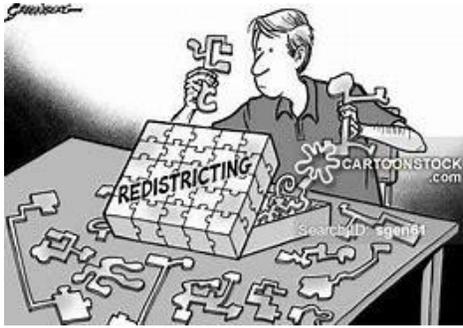
email at www.manchin.senate.gov

Sen. Shelley Moore Capito: call 202-224-6472

email at www.capito.senate.gov

Farewell

After being an active member of the LWV since the 1970's, Nancy Novak will soon be moving out of state. Nancy was our local League president for a total of 12 years and also served as LWVWV president and board member in many different roles. We wish her and Ernie well, but have no idea how to fill the void she leaves behind.



The 2019 WV Legislature did not take up the bills that would have created an independent panel to redistrict the state after the 2020 census. WV will almost certainly lose a congressional seat and three districts will have to become two.

Taxing language: Some are confused about WV's taxes on businesses. The Business and Occupation tax (B&O) is levied on a business's gross receipts, somewhat comparable to an individual's tax on income. The Business Inventory tax is levied on inventory on hand and machinery and equipment used in the business, more like WV's personal property tax levied on an individual's cars, boats, trailers, etc. Cities approved for Home Rule that want to impose a 1% sales tax must reduce or eliminate their B&O tax. This shifts some of the tax burden from businesses to consumers.

Formerly a pilot project, Home Rule is now in place as a permanent program.

Speaking of taxes, HB 2001 would have exempted all Social Security benefits from state income taxes. It was amended to limit the exemption to middle and lower income filers. Legislators spoke movingly about giving relief to people for whom Social Security is their main form of income, ignoring the fact that people in that bracket would owe no tax anyway. Most of the benefit would have gone to the better off.



Once women could vote.....

- **2019** marks 100 years since the founding of the Business and Professional Women's Club, The BPWC's purpose was to encourage women in business and white-collar jobs where women often were not welcome. One goal was to end the expectation that women would leave their jobs when they married. During her husband's administration, Eleanor Roosevelt was a supporter and encouraged FDR to appoint women to high level government jobs. The organization was an early advocate for an equal rights amendment.

- Fearing that women would use their vote against men who did not support women's rights, in **1921** Congress rallied to pass the Sheppard-Towner Act. Its goal was to reduce maternal and infant mortality and was the first federally funded health care law passed by Congress. Clinics, often staffed by women, were established to provide information and care to women who had little access to medical care. Birth control pioneer Margaret Sanger thought the act was inadequate because it did not provide information on contraception, noting that it helped women care for their seventh child, but not how to prevent an eighth.

- Also in **1921**, an image of Betty Crocker made her debut promoting the products of a flour mill, later part of General Mills, and became an enduring symbol of domesticity. Ironically, the two women responsible for Betty's creation both had long professional careers.

Source: What Every American Woman Should Know About Women's History, © 1994

LWV LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105



April 22 Meeting
6 p.m. Pksbg City Bldg.
SOLAR POWER

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.