

League of Women Voters of Wood County WV

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



Mark Your Calendar

Monday, October 28 6:30 p.m. Meeting on Wood County Development, *see below*
Monday November 11, noon Planning Meeting for 2020 Das Rookhaus - see column to the right
Sunday, December 15 2:00 p.m. Holiday Party At the home of Jane Burdette. Details will be sent closer to the date.



Economic Development in Wood County Monday, October 28, 6:15 p.m. Open to the public

Guest speaker will be Lindsey Kerr Piersol, Director of the Wood County Economic Development Authority. The Authority is a public entity that was created by the Wood County Commission in order to promote development within the county.

The Authority encourages the locating of new businesses and promotes the expansion of existing businesses, with the goal of maintaining economic stability in the county and providing opportunities for employment. They work in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies to promote industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development.

League members enjoyed hearing from Ms. Piersol previously, and wanted an update on what's new and what's coming in Wood County.

Location: The Vienna Community Building is in Jackson Park. From Parkersburg, come north on Grand Central Ave. and turn right at 34th St. and go about ½ mile. The community building will be on the left, across from Jackson Middle School.

The meeting is open to the public. Help spread the word by inviting others who might be interested.

Note that a limited number of memberships for new members at \$25 for the first year are available. Ask someone to come to the meeting and join the League.

Voter

October- November 2019



League members are welcome to join the board on November 11 for a planning session for 2020. We are especially interested in hearing ideas for special observances of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

We will meet at noon at Das Rookhaus, 2911 Dudley Ave., Parkersburg on Monday, Nov. 11. If you plan to have lunch, please come 15-30 minutes earlier to place your order so discussion can start at noon.



WV Legislature

The legislature gets little coverage at this time of year, but they have been holding interim meetings, the next of which are Nov. 18 – 19 and Dec. 16-17. Interim committees hear testimony on topics that will come up in the 2020 session have a chance to discuss them, influencing legislative agendas. The next regular session convenes January 8, 2020, so now is a good time to contact legislators and tell them what you want them to do or not do. All local House of Delegates seats and the State Senate seat currently held by Donna Boley as well as statewide offices will be on the ballot next year.

Note that the delegate from District 9 has changed since the 2019 regular session. Current contact information for all legislators is readily available at www.wvlegislature.gov.

Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) may soon be fully operational in West Virginia. Instead of having to opt to register to vote when you transact business at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles, registration will be automatic unless you opt out. DMV says it now has the system set up to gather and process the necessary information accurately.

We hope this will prevent a repeat of the case when four registrants were mistakenly assigned to the wrong place. Their votes in their town election disallowed and a challenge is underway in court. Their four votes could change the results of the town council election. See:

<http://wvmetronews.com/2019/10/18/with-small-towns-council-election-still-in-dispute-warner-and-morrissey-weigh-in/>

Excerpt from statement By Virginia Kase, Chief Executive Officer of LWVUS to U.S. House Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Elections concerning **Voting Rights and Election Administration in America**, Thursday, October 17, 2019

“If Congress fails to act immediately, this will be the first redistricting cycle to occur without a fully functioning Voting Rights Act and will allow states to push through unjustifiable changes to their laws that will have a direct impact for voters for a decade. Without continued oversight and safeguards in place to protect voters from all backgrounds, it is left to organizations like the League of Women Voters and other nonprofit voting rights groups to inform and protect voters affected by these policies and practices.

But that should not be the sole role of the League and our partners; it is the responsibility of government to create and enforce laws that prevent barriers in the democracy our forefathers designed to foster an open, transparent government powered by the people, for the people, all of the people.

It is the duty of government to protect the rights of voters and to encourage participation in our political system, not create barriers that prevent participation. As we have for nearly 100 years, the League looks forward to working across the aisle to determine the points of consensus for any and all voting rights legislation considered before Congress. And we look forward to working with elected leaders to protect and uphold their responsibility of ensuring voters have the unobstructed ability to exercise their right to vote.”

Full text at: <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/testimony-virginia-kase-voting-rights-and-election-administration-america>



Achieving the 19th amendment.....

Excerpts from an article by Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS Originally published in by *The Hill*, available in full at <https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/news-clips/hill-womens-equality-day-stop-romanticizing-19th-amendment>

“In telling the true story behind the 19th, we must also stop perpetuating the myth that women were “granted” the right to vote. Let’s be clear: women “won” the right to vote. It was not “given” to us. It was a fight, decades in the making. And many suffragists, like Susan B. Anthony, didn’t live to see the victory at the end of that struggle.”

“The political strategy that ultimately resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment was a shrewd state-by-state campaign. It was led by the suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt. In the years leading up to 1920, Catt shopped her “Winning Plan” for achieving suffrage in front of state legislatures all over the country. She was a brilliant political operative who successfully modified her case for women’s suffrage based on her audience, even if it meant pandering to racist politicians in the south who feared having their votes outnumbered if black women were to become enfranchised.”

“Ultimately, her tactics succeeded in building enough support to pass the 19th Amendment. Women won the right to vote. But not all women gained equal access at the ballot box. Women of color, especially those in the south, did not have full voting rights. Poll taxes and literacy tests deliberately kept African Americans from fully participating in democracy until the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Denial of citizenship, property requirements, and sanctioned violence against voters barred Native Americans from the polls. Literacy tests were used to disenfranchise racial minorities as late as 1970.”



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

October 28 Meeting
6:15 p.m. Vienna Community Building
Development in Wood County
Guest: Lindsey Piersol

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.