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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

April 2021 E-mail Bulletin

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APRIL 12TH LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the LWV of the Huntington Area will be held on April 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Instead of having a speaker as we do at our in person gatherings



the Board decided that we will take care of required business and then hold an open session for members to exchange ideas. We're excited to hear what you think we should be doing and how we should be doing it. Look for the business meeting information at the end of this newsletter. (Again, huge thanks to our capable team!) League members will receive a separate link to join the Zoom meeting; we will see you on the 12th. Phone conferencing available for those who prefer.



To be a strong voice for Democracy, your LWV of the Huntington Area needs YOU to participate in our Zoom Virtual Annual Meeting on April 12, 7pm.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA – YEAR IN REVIEW 2020-2021 by Marcia Daoust

LWV ORGANIZATIONAL FUNCTIONS:

(Due to the COVID Pandemic, 2020-2021 was a very challenging year for the LWV of the Huntington Area. It demanded member imagination, flexibility, and team work to remain effective.)

- March 23, 2020: The LWV-Huntington Area meeting was cancelled due to COVID. It was conducted instead through emails and telephone calls. 2020 Officers nominated and approved for 2 year terms were: President – no nominee; 1st VP – Martha Woodward; Secretary – Monica Rowe; Directors – Betty Barrett, Nyoka Chapman, Beverly Murrell; Nominating Committee – Susan Hubbard, Betty Stepp.
- Board Meetings: Virtual LWV-Huntington Area board meetings were conducted in April, June & Dec., 2020. In October 2020 an in-person Board Meeting was conducted outdoors with social distancing. Zoom Virtual Board Meetings were conducted in Jan., Feb., March & April 2021.
- LWV-Huntington Area contacted public officials, advocating for many League-supported issues.
- LWV-Huntington Area created a Facebook page.
- LWV-Huntington Area participated in a Zoom-Virtual informative presentation about LWV and the legislative process given to the local P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), a female educators' organization.
- LWV-Huntington Area mail Finance Drive - Sept. 2020
- LWV-Huntington Area older files donated to the MU Library, Special Collections.
- Jan. 11, 2021: Zoom Virtual LWV-Huntington Area membership meeting to consider "Concurrence on Rank Choice Voting". The event was attended by a LWV-WV board member to answer questions.
- March 8, 2021: Virtual LWV-Huntington Area general Meeting via Microsoft Teams, with a presentation by Sabrina Thomas, MU Instruction/Research Librarian titled "Disinformation and Misinformation – How did we get here and how do we get out?"
- April 12, 2021: Zoom Virtual LWV-Huntington Area Annual Meeting

VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES:

WV PRIMARY ELECTION JUNE 9, 2020:

- Cancelled April 2020 LWV-Huntington Area candidates' meeting that was co-sponsored with the Southside Neighborhood Association. Cancelled due to COVID.
- April 2020: Cancelled an environmental candidates' forum co-sponsored by LWV-Huntington Area and lead by OVEC & other local environmental organizations. Cancelled due to COVID.

- May 24, 2020: Primary 2020 Voters' Guide, a cooperative effort between the League-Huntington Area & the Herald Dispatch. Published by the newspaper on-line and as a special printed section.
- Promoted creation of "ads" designed by a volunteer graphics designer and by one of our talented LWV-Huntington Area members for on-line use through Facebook and websites. Ads promoted voter registration/voting in the Primary Election.

CABELL CO. SCHOOLS BOND LEVY ELECTION – AUGUST 22, 2020:

- LWV-Huntington Area created informative School Bond Levy PSA's (Public Service Announcements) and encouraged local media to use them.
- Prepared advocacy/informative "ads" about the School Bond Levy for use on the internet, while promoting passage of the Cabell Co. School Bond Levy. These ads were created in partnership with a local PTA.

WV GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 3, 2020:

- LWV-Huntington Area Op-Ed "Securing the U.S. 2020 Election" published in the Herald-Dispatch on Aug. 2. Advocated passage of HR4 "Voting Rights Advancement Act" by the U.S. Senate and supported approval of an extra \$3.6 billion election security funding.
- Created get out the vote "ads" by a creative LWV-Huntington Area member, which were posted by LWV-Huntington Area members on Facebook and the internet.
- Oct. 18, 2020 "Election 2020" Voters Guide, a cooperative effort between the League-Huntington Area & the Herald Dispatch. Published by the newspaper on-line and as a special printed section.
- In October, the LWV, Huntington Area partnered with WSAZ-TV to conduct interviews using questions submitted by the LWV for House of Delegate candidates for Districts 16, 17 18 and for the Huntington Council-at-Large. This was uploaded on the WSAZ-TV website.
- LWVWV cosponsored multiple virtual Zoom Health Care Candidates Meetings throughout WV. The one conducted on October 19 in Cabell Co. had a LWV-Huntington moderator.

PUBLICATIONS - 2021:

- LWV-Huntington Area Directory of WV Public Officials for Cabell/Wayne Co., winter 2021.
- LWV-Huntington Area Guide to WV Legislature for Cabell/Wayne Co., winter 2021.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AUGUST 26, 2020:

The LWV-Huntington Area provided leadership of the planning committee for the local Centennial Celebration Commemorating Ratification of the 19th Amendment. Partner groups were Delta Sigma Theta and Marshall University. (For details, see special newsletter article)



LWV STATE CONVENTION

by Helen Gibbins

The Jefferson County LWV will host a virtual convention on May 17. More of the particulars will come later.



State conventions give us the opportunity to meet members of the state board and members of local Leagues around the state. We hear about successful programs that we might want to emulate. Our lobbyist reviews League supported or opposed legislative bills. An interesting speaker charges us up with new ideas. We become enthused about the activities of the Leagues around the state.

We encourage members to sign up to attend the convention.

Contact Martha Woodward
woodward@marshall.edu



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES by Helen Gibbins

We are coming up to the last stretch of the 2021 WV legislative session. Here are some good sources of legislative information and a few of the measures they are working on:

WV Citizen Action Group - <https://wvcag.org> - Capitol Eye.

Affordable Medicaid Buy-in Program
Reducing the Personal Income Tax
Guns in Dorms
Various bills that affect children

WV Rivers - <https://wvrivers.org> - Link to Water Policy News

Water Quality Standards
Oil and Gas Tank Exemption

WV Center on Budget and Policy - <https://wvpolicy.org> - Link to Issues

Tax and Budget are of particular interests this year

NPR - W.Va. Gov. Wants A Population Boom And A Disney Theme Park. His Plan? Income Tax Cuts -

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/16/977832943/w-va-gov-wants-a-population-boom-and-a-disney-theme-park-his-plan-income-tax-cut>

CALENDAR EVENTS

- April 6th @ 3:00 p.m.
LWV Board Mtg
- April 12th @ 7:00 p.m.
LWV Annual Mtg
- May 17th LWV State Convention



All events will be conducted virtually using Zoom.



REDISTRICTING WEST VIRGINIA by Nyoka Baker Chapman

WV House Joint Resolution 5 was introduced on 02/11/21 and is now in the Committee on Political Subdivisions. Should the Resolution move to the Judiciary then there is hope that HJR 5 will come to a vote and a State Apportionment Commission may be established and a nonpartisan citizen commission would be formed to hold public hearings and present a recommended redistricting bill to the WV legislature.

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=hjr5%20intr.htm&yr=2021&sestype=RS&i=5&houseorig=H&billld hold =JRA

The LWVWV Fair Maps committee met on 03/17 to discuss redistricting issues and the creation of fair maps. Though there is support for HJR 5 there is no guarantee that the resolution will move to the floor. The committee is planning advocacy actions for HJR 5. At this time there may be available assistance from several sources by electoral map experts to draw fairly districted maps in cooperation with our nonpartisan organization. Official preliminary data from the 2020 census will not be available to complete updated maps though until around August 1st. Examples of Fair Maps can be used as comparative exhibits that could challenge potentially gerrymandered ones. The LWVWV is in a position to sponsor public hearings on redistricting and we would want to begin that process in a timely manner as the process unfolds in our state. <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/redistricting.cfm>

Should HR 1, the For the People Act, pass the US Senate and be signed into law there would be criteria set for states regarding redistricting and acknowledgment of those guidelines by West Virginia would be imperative to be in compliance. Portions of HR1 related to redistricting begin on page 281 and continue to page 339. <https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr1/BILLS-117hr1ih.pdf>. See more information at the LWVUS website about the impact of HR 1 on redistricting. <https://www.lwv.org/blog/redistricting-watch-what-people-act-means-redistricting>. Hopefully elections in WV in the years to come will be more about people powered issues and less about partisan rhetoric.

If you are interested in creating your own maps there are programs available to get you started. <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#home> is simple to use, you can click on WV and see your options. By populating information about current maps one can see how they have impacted WV elections. You can select overlays and layering information that reveal different factors in the maps such as city limits, partisan lean and more. The WV Delegate district map for

example appears to be mostly pink and lighter red tones in the Daves Districting program. Current statistics from the WVSOS look more purple than pink!

	Democrat	Republican	Mountain	Libertarian	No Party	Other	Total
WEST VIRGINIA	435694	445132	2290	8894	270576	38900	1,201,486
	36.26%	37.05%	0.19%	0.74%	22.52%	3.24%	

<https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Documents/VoterRegistrationTotals/2021/Feb2021.pdf>

Other mapping programs were provided by LWVWV President Jonathan Rosenbaum who was present at the meeting: <https://app.districtbuilder.org/register>, their website is <https://www.districtbuilder.org/>. Pennsylvania's branch of the older version of District Builder is at <https://drawthelinespa.org/>, this utilizes the contest approach. The parent project of District Builder is the Public Mapping Project (<http://www.publicmapping.org/>). They have published a free downloadable book at <https://cornellopen.org/9781501738548/the-public-mapping-project/>.

LWVUS POSITION ON REDISTRICTING

The League's position on redistricting: <https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/lwvus-position-redistricting>

The League of Women Voters believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.

Every redistricting process should include:

- Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan
- Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption
 - Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process, and
 - Should be subject to open meeting laws.
- A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote.
 - Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule.
 - Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review.
 - The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.

The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:

- Be enforceable in court
- Require:
 - Substantially equal population of Geographic contiguity
 - Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities
- Provide for (to the extent possible)
 - Promotion of partisan fairness
 - Preservation and protection of “communities of interest”
 - Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties
- Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
- Explicitly reject
 - Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address
 - Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

Statement of Position on Redistricting, as Adopted by Concurrence, June 2016. This position does not supersede any existing state League redistricting position.

ACTION ALERT FOR US SENATE BILL 1

By Marcia Daoust



Action Alert!

The National LWV has requested members contact their Senators and request their support the For the People Act of 2021, “S1”. The

League of Women Voters is one of the original supporters of the For the People Act and it is appropriate to mention our LWV membership.

(Info - Sen. Capito: www.capito.senate.gov and Sen. Manchin: www.manchin.senate.gov)

For the People Act (S1) summary:

- Fundamentally restores our democratic system by renewing the Voting Rights Act
- Modernizes our voter registration system

- Establishes criteria and transparency to limit partisan gerrymandering
- Makes campaign contributions transparent and reveals major donors
- Will remove barriers to voting
- Restores the ballot to formerly incarcerated individuals
- Modernizes future elections

Please continue to encourage our Senators to vote for this legislation.

FOLLOW THE LEAGUE ON FACEBOOK

You may access the Facebook page for the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

<https://www.facebook.com/lwvhuntingtonwv/>

Thanks to Phoebe Randolph who manages the page!



LWV-HUNTINGTON ANNUAL MEETING



The annual meeting of the LWV of the Huntington Area will be held on April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

PROPOSED LOCAL POSITIONS (studied and came to a consensus) by Helen Gibbins



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- a. Support improvements in the quality of recreation in the Huntington area
- b. Support improvements in the quality of education
- c. Support comprehensive land use planning
- d. Support the improvement of solid waste management
- e. Support continuing the funding of the Cabell County Library System by Cabell County taxpayers

ELECTION PROCEDURES

Support measures to improve the election process.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Support improvement of juvenile court procedures and support agencies.

TAXES AND FINANCE

- a. Support funding for parks and recreation in the Huntington area
- b. Support funding for Volunteer Fire Departments by those who are served by them.
- c. Support continuing the funding of the Cabell County Library system by Cabell County taxpayers.



PROPOSED BUDGET-2021-2022

Expenditures

A. Operating Costs

\$200

1. Maintenance of Equipment-0
2. General Supplies-\$50
3. Meeting Places-\$150
4. Equipment-0

B. Board and Administration

\$230

1. President-\$10
2. Secretary-\$10
3. Treasurer-\$80
4. Board Tools and Expenses-\$10
5. Administrative Committees
 - a. Finance -\$60
 - b. Membership/Meetings-\$50
 - c. Public Relations-\$10

C. Delegates/Travel

\$125

- 1. Annual Meeting-\$25
- 2. State Convention Council-\$100
- 3. National Convention-0

D. Financial Support for LWVUS

&LWVWV- \$ 2,000

- 1. US-\$1,568
- 2. WV-\$432

E. Bulletin-

\$100

F. Educational Activities

\$200

- 1. DVD's and Publications-\$10
- 2. Local Program Committee- \$25
- 3. Voter Services
 - a. Elections \$150
 - b. Outreach--\$15

G. Position Support-

\$20

- 1. Publications-\$10
- 2. Action-\$10

Total
\$2,900

INCOME

- A. Dues- \$2,400
- B. Contributions-\$295
- C. Interest-\$5
- D. Reserves-\$200

Total
\$2,900



Budget Definitions

B-1,2,3,4 family care, milage, meals, transportation, copying, postage, publication, long distance misc

B-3 thank you notes, dues notices, supplies

B-5b membership flyers, refreshments

D—PMP per member payment

F-1 Public officials; Guide to the Legislature; Election Information; Bill of Rights Bookmarks

F-3b Books donated; Speeches to other organizations; posters

LEAGUE NOMINATING REPORT

Thank you to our Nominating Committee, Susan Hubbard and Betty Stepp for their excellent work. We will vote on our outstanding nominees at the Annual Meeting.

- 2nd Vice- Wendy Thomas
- Treasurer- Patricia Scarr
- Directors- Marcia Daoust
Marsha Dawson
Phoebe Randolph



NO candidate for president

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties. Membership is open to anyone of voting age. Dues are free for full time students, \$50 for an individual, and \$75 for two persons in a household. Send your check to Patricia Scarr, 16 Nancy Lane, Barboursville, WV 25504.

