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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
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Area Bulletin

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4-2022

### League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area E-mail Bulletin, April 2022

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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## Health Policy, the Social Safety Net, and the 2022 Legislative Session

BETTY BARRETT

It was a busy Legislative session for health care issues. As always, some good bills passed, some did not and some were not even considered. I am preparing a report on those bills for the WV Voter, due to you in a few weeks, and don't want to repeat it here. I can't sum up the total session results any better than the WV Center for Budget and Policy, quoted here in full. This organization has excellent weekly reports like this one. If you want to subscribe, which I recommend, it is free and easy to find.

**Budget Beat**  
WEEKLY



### Health Policy, the Social Safety Net, and the 2022 Legislative Session

The 2022 West Virginia legislative session was nothing short of a missed opportunity when it came to public health and the social safety net. Overlapping health and economic crises created the need and opportunity for the Legislature to focus on proactive measures that could prioritize the health and wellness of families across the Mountain State, but they failed to do so. Rather, legislators prioritized social issues masked as health issues – like curtailing public health related to COVID-19 and abortion access.

There were several bills relating to COVID-19 – none that made people safer, like paid sick days or paid leave. Instead, the Legislature turned its attention to undermining proven public health interventions, like mask mandates and other safety protocols.

Access to abortion in West Virginia is already minimal, with just [one clinic](#) still operating in the entire state. Despite this, at least a dozen bills were introduced that could further curtail access to abortions in the Mountain State. Of these, just one passed. [SB 468](#) prohibits abortions if an individual indicates that they seek termination of their pregnancy because the fetus has a disability. This stands in stark contradiction to COVID-19 related “freedom” bills that asserted that the state could not interfere in one’s medical decision-making.

In contrast to the harmful COVID-19 and abortion legislation, several bills had the potential to positively impact West Virginians. Unfortunately, most were not passed this session. You can find select summaries in our [full blog post](#).

On a positive note, lawmakers did pass a bill addressing behavioral health. [SB 181](#) expands behavioral health services by designating crisis hotline centers, among other provisions. This is great news, as behavioral and mental health have been significant concerns within the state for several years, especially against the backdrop of the ongoing opioid and COVID-19 epidemics.

Finally, a bill was passed to [split the Department of Health and Human Resources](#) (DHHR) into two separate agencies. This move will create an additional secretary at the executive level, who the governor will appoint. Dividing such a large agency is not inherently disadvantageous for the state. However, concerns about appointments that do not prioritize best public health practices are valid. Further, arguably the most pressing concern associated with this bill is its timing. Set to go into effect by June 2023 – amid a public health crisis wherein several programs must return to pre-pandemic processes – such a policy could create a massive administrative burden within an agency already strife with critical [staffing and funding deficits](#).

**You can find our recap of the good and the bad health- and safety net-related legislation that passed and failed this year in Rhonda's [full blog post](#).**

## A WV Climate Time Capsule

NYOKA BAKER CHAPMAN



The WV Climate Time Capsule began as a contributing activity by the League of Women Voters of WV to a climate rally sponsored by the WV Climate Alliance in October of 2021. The contents contain contributions from multiple organizations, research on alternative energy technologies, articles that document current events that are shaping our climate future, correspondence and more. The WV Climate Time Capsule also carries prayers, hopes and wishes to our neighbors in time, that we are working now on all levels to ensure that they will inherit a sustainable future.

Curbing Climate Change is arguably the greatest challenge we face in the coming decades. We must solve empirical scientific and ethical problems, against all odds, during the first half of this century. As WV is one of the top emitters of greenhouse gases in the nation, we find ourselves in a unique position to lead on a global scale to show the world how it is done. This is the responsibility of our current generations and we must pledge to invest our energies to secure this great task.

Cultivating change to create a positive climate future is and will be a multilevel effort that will involve the practical, the political and yes, the spiritual nature of humanity itself that we will be able to work together to preserve the collective right to call this beautiful Planet our home.

The transfer of our WV Climate Time Capsule to the Marshall University James E. Morrow Library will take place on Wednesday, 04/20 at 3 pm during the Marshall University Earth Week. The simple ceremony will follow a tabling event by environmental organizations <https://www.marshall.edu/sustainability/earth-week-april-18-22-2022/>. Written contributions will be accepted until 2 pm that day for a supplemental folder, this will be a part of our event activities on that day.

The LWVWV would like to extend our gratitude to the WV Climate Alliance, the Marshall University James E. Morrow Library, the Marshall University Department of Sustainability, and the Marshall University Drinko Academy for their support of this effort. As well, to all others who have contributed to carry our WV climate history and messages of good will toward a beautiful Earth Day in 2050.



## 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

*The annual meeting will be held April 25, 2022 at 7:00 pm, using Zoom. Members will be receiving an email with the sign in information. Hope to see you then!*

### AGENDA

- I. Treasurer's Report/Adoption of Proposed Budget
- II. Nominating Report/Election of Officers
- III. Local Year in Review
- IV. State Year in Review
- V. Adoption of Local Programs/Positions
- VI. Direction on State/National Positions

### MINTUES FROM 2021 ANNUAL MEETING BY ZOOM

Call to Order: Martha Woodward



Members present: Nyoka Chapman, Marsha Dawson, Beverly Murrell, Martha Woodward, Marcia Daoust, Betty Barrett, Helen Gibbins, Wendy Thomas, Monserrat Miller, Patricia Keller, Jame McCumbee, Marie Redd, Paul Cooley, Monika Rowe.

Treasurer's Report: Not available.

Adoption of Proposed Budget: Betty Barrett made the motion to adopt the proposed Budget, 2021-2022, as outlined in the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area April 2021 Newsletter. Nyoka Chapman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Election of Officers: The Chair of the Nominating Committee was not present. Nominated were Wendy Thomas, 2nd Vice President; P. J. Scarr, Treasurer; Marcia Daoust, Director; Marsha Dawson, Director; Susan Hubbard, Nominating Committee; Betty Stepp, Nominating Committee. All nominees were elected by acclamation.

Local Year in Review, 2020: Marcia Daoust gave a detailed report about the year in review, as outlined in the April 2021 Newsletter.

State Year in Review: Nyoka Baker Chapman provided updates and information on LWVWV's partnership with the WV Climate Alliance. Combating climate Change in WV will be a big task. The group has had meetings this year with members of Senator Manchin's staff and a point person from Senator Capito's office regarding infrastructure for clean energy, recapping abandoned gas wells, carbon capture and just transitions. We have taken actions with other organizations and had success in challenging bills that affect our water quality. Statistics re the \$4 billion in funds to coming to WV from the 'American Rescue Plan' was shared from Senator Manchin's website. HB 3300 was another 'take action' concern due to potential deficits in the elimination of the WV income tax, the bill was sent back to House Finance. A portion of the huge bill addressed cannabis as a tax base, which had not previously been discussed. Point was made that we remain aware of possible misinformation from all sources when we take actions. HJR 5 would have established an independent redistricting commission, but the resolution failed to move. If passed, HR1 now S 1, would ensure Fair Maps. We are planning meetings for the coming months re WV's redistricting . The overview came from local league Advocacy efforts and participation on the LWVWV Natural Resources Committee and the LWVWV Fair Maps committee.

Highlight Votes For Women Centennial Celebration: Wendy Thomas gave a detailed overview of the Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage, August 26, 2020, and thanked Marshall University, Delta Sigma Theta sorority and the LWV for all the hard work they did to make this celebration commemorating Ratification of the 19th Amendment a success. She presented a slideshow of photos of the event.

Montserrat Miller thanked all who helped. She stated that the MU Celebration of the Constitution should start in August. She is thinking of what to do on the plaza. May show a film re equality. My have a panel after showing the film. If anyone would like to contact her regarding the program, her email is millerm@marshall.edu. She stated that Marshall University likes to partner with the League and Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

Direction of Membership, Participation in League Activities, and League Meetings. Beverly Murrell stated that she had received a question re the League's high membership dues and that

we need to address this. Wendy Thomas agreed. We want to increase our membership and need to attract young people. It should be put in our newsletter.

Adoption of Local Programs and Local Positions: Discussion re local government: Betty Barrett stated that we need to work on more support for libraries. Nyoka Chapman mentioned to work with the city, who will receive a lot of money. Betty Barrett made a motion to adopt the proposed positions of the League as outlined in our April Newsletter, page 8. Nyoka Chapman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Direction on State and National Positions: Natural Resources: Agriculture, Air, Water, Drinking Water, Solid and Hazardous Waste, Energy, Land Use Planning, Mining, Timbering, Nuclear Issues, Public Participation, Resources Management – Betty Barrett recommended working with other groups who have similar ideas.

Meeting adjourned.

Monika Rowe, Secretary



#### LWV STATE PRIORITIES

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia (LWV-WV) has adopted three main areas as legislative priorities for the 2022 session of the WV Legislature.

##### ***Democracy***

The right to vote and equal access to the ballot are pillars of our democracy and guiding principles for the LWV. We will:

- Oppose restrictions on voter registration or voting.
- Advocate for methods to increase voter turnout, based on lessons learned from the 2020 elections.
- Prioritize measures to make voting easier, while protecting election security, including no-excuse absentee voting and expanded options for ballot return and early in-person voting.
- Support legislation to modernize election methods, reduce taxpayer costs, and reduce administrative burden.
- Oppose any effort to make political spending less transparent.
- Support measures to increase transparency and public participation in the next redistricting process.

##### ***Social Justice***

The LWV is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion because, to succeed in the 21st Century, West Virginia must be welcoming for all. We will:

- Oppose legislative efforts to suppress civil and Constitutional rights.
- Support legislation to ban discrimination and ensure equality of opportunity in education, employment, and housing for all West Virginians regardless of race, color, gender, religion,

national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

- Support health care for all West Virginians including expanded Medicaid coverage, subsidies for affordable coverage under the ACA, measures to eliminate disparities in health care availability and outcomes for Black and other minority communities, and access to evidence-based treatment and harm reduction strategies to save lives affected by substance use disorders.
- Advocate for state and local budgets that cover essential services and protect our most vulnerable.

### ***Environmental Protection***

Climate change is no longer a distant or future threat. The LWV is committed to protecting the planet along with the health and safety of all West Virginians. We will:

- Support updating water quality standards to strengthen protections for human health, and support measures to expand access to water service that meets these standards.
- Target strategic management of natural resources to protect the planet for this and future generations.
- Advocate for environmental priorities that are coupled with a creative and just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.

Oppose facilities that add, expand, or preserve dependence on fossil fuels.

### 2022 PROPOSED LOCAL POSITIONS

#### **I. 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.

#### **II. ELECTION PROCEDURES**

- a. Support measures to improve the election process.

#### **III. HUMAN RESOURCES**

- a. Support improvement of juvenile court procedures and support agencies.

#### **IV. 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.

### 2022 PROPOSED LOCAL DIRECTION

- I. Support funding of libraries through the WV Legislature
- II. Support the City in its use of additional funding.



III. Collaborate with other organizations to help further LWV positions.

LWV- HUNTINGTON AREA PROPOSED BUDGET 2022-2023

*Expenditures*

<b>A. Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$200</b>
1. Maintenance of Equipment-0	
2. General Supplies-\$50	
3. Meeting Places-\$150	
4. Equipment-0	
<b>B. Board and Administration</b>	<b>\$230</b>
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	
<b>C. Delegates/Travel</b>	<b>\$125</b>
1. Annual Meeting-\$25	
2. State Convention Council-\$100	
3. National Convention-0	
<b>D. Financial Support for LWVUS &amp;LWVWV</b>	<b>\$ 2,000</b>
1. US-\$1,568	
2. WV-\$432	
<b>E. Bulletin</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>F. Educational Activities</b>	<b>\$200</b>
1. DVD's and Publications-\$10	
2. Local Program Committee- \$25	
3. Voter Services	
a. Elections \$150	
b. Outreach--\$15	
<b>G. Position Support-</b>	<b>\$20</b>
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**





Not included in the budget are 2 earmarked donations. \$300.00 for voter services and \$50.00 for climate change education/action.

*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



Dear LWV Member:

Your January 1-December 31, 2022 dues are now due.

Single membership is \$50.00. Two Memberships in the same household are a total of \$75.00.

Pease make your checks out to **the League of Women Voters of Huntington** and mail them to: LWV c/o PJ Scarr, 16 Nancy Lane Barboursville, WV 25504.

Please include this form with your current information.

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

*We do not share your personal information with any other organization. **However, if you wish to receive information, emails and solicitations from the National League of Women Voters please check here.** [ ]*

We greatly appreciate you continued interest and support.