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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 2020 - Present

League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

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

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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LWV US Convention 2022

This year the National Convention was a hybrid event, which made affordable, virtual attendance possible. Marcia Daoust represented the LWV of the Huntington Area, attending and voting virtually.



SYNOPSIS:

- The Pre-Convention Webinars to prepare attendees were well-done and informative.
- Thursday's speakers and panel discussion were inspiring and may guide local leagues in future decisions. (see below)
- Friday's break-out sessions and afternoon Plenary were well done and LWVUS Program decisions were predictable. Afterwards, the in-person League attendees took part in a protest march in Denver, to oppose SCOTUS's ruling on Roe v. Wade.
- Saturday's meeting was a very different experience. The initial speeches from the President and CEO of LWVUS were appropriate and encouraging. Subsequently, there were unscheduled presentations. A portion of Saturday's planned agenda was postponed until the following day.

PLENARY (business): The Election of officers and Budget motions passed smoothly. When the LWVUS-recommended Bylaw Amendments came to the floor, discussions became very passionate and tempers flared. The most debated was ByLaw Amendment #1, which focused on League membership dues. LWVUS proposed a change from the local Leagues collection of dues and payment of Per Member Payments, to a national, Unified Membership System policy for all members, national and local. A narrow vote passed this bylaw change, which means that, starting in 2024, all LWV members will pay the exact same dues directly to national LWVUS, instead of to their local League. The local Leagues will receive distribution of funds from National. In describing the new dues process, LWVUS indicated there will be an option, for members who so choose, to pay reduced dues. However, the wording of the new bylaw does not mention this option. Below is the exact wording.

ByLaw Amendment #1:

ALL MEMBERS SHALL PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES EXCEPT THOSE EXEMPTED FROM PAYING DUES IN ARTICLE III. NET REVENUE COLLECTED THROUGH MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE SHARED BY LWVUS, THE MEMBER'S STATE LEAGUE AND, IF APPLICABLE, THE MEMBER'S LOCAL LEAGUE OR MEMBER-AT-LARGE UNIT. ALLOCATION TO LWVUS SHALL NOT EXCEED ONE-THIRD.

Note: Marcia Daoust voted against this amendment, as recommended by our local board.

Sunday's proceedings included unfinished By Law amendment decisions and LWV Resolutions. The originally-scheduled Sunday speech by Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner was cancelled due to Saturday's agenda problem. It was rescheduled as a virtual event, now planned for July 21, 7 pm.

INSPIRATION FROM THURSDAY SPEAKERS:

Cliff and April Albright spoke about the importance of participating in coalitions for common goals. They suggested conducting personality surveys to understand other people and organization work styles. It is important to focus on the common values and not styles. All members of a coalition must be meaningfully involved. They cautioned that the LWV should be humble and not insist on leading coalitions.

Valerie Jenson spoke on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which was a Convention focus for the entire weekend. She emphasized that we must relinquish our privilege and partner with others as equals. If there is an "issue" in the room, it must be discussed. Effort must be taken to always consider who is being excluded. The documentary: "A Class Apart" was recommended.

A women's Democracy panel discussion concluded the evening. Important points were:

- We must never give up and need to continue working together in coalitions
- We must explain to the public HOW voting is relevant to bringing positive change in people's lives.
- On hope: Community is the antidote to despair.

- Go to where people are, instead of expecting them to come to our events.
- Have a consistent message.
- Continue voter education to counter misinformation.

For a deeper dive into the Convention proceedings:

Please see the following links from the LWVUS website.

Plenary Business decisions:

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/items-passed-2022-convention>

Note: The recordings of Plenary were edited and do not include the heated debates that were experienced by attendees.

Speeches and Educational breakout sessions:

Search on the internet for: Convention.lwv.org. Click on the upper right-hand corner's "hamburger" and choose "agenda". You will see the selection of recordings broken down for each day. Keynote speakers were on Thursday. Friday and Saturday educational topics were varied and all are relevant to League issues. They include Election Security, Monetary Principles to Make Democracy to Work, Vote 411 Workshops, Abolishment of the Electoral College, LWVUS Climate Interest, Combatting Mis- and Disinformation, and many, many more.

Commemorating Women's Right to Vote!

WENDY THOMAS

August marks two important events in U.S. History. On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee Legislature passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right-to-vote. This vote gave the two thirds majority of states needed to pass a constitutional amendment. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State certified the ratification. August 26 is now known as Women's Equality Day.



To commemorate this historic milestone, the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area has planted a flower garden on the grounds of the Cabell County Courthouse. The garden is located at the 4th Avenue entrance on the east side of the courthouse. The courthouse was chosen because it represents the seat of government for all Cabell County citizens. The garden will be maintained by the league. This prominent location is part of the league's continuing efforts to encourage and increase voter participation for all citizens of Cabell County. Voting is our voice and our constitutional right. It is our hope that this meaningful project will remind Cabell County citizens of the importance of voting and its impact on our democracy.

Thanks to Jan Gossett for chairing this project, Phoebe Randolph for the signage and Betty Barrett for the idea. Special thanks to Beth Thompson, Executive Director and all members of the Cabell County Commission for their support of this project.

This flower garden was planted by the
League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area
in recognition of the ratification of the
19th Amendment to the Constitution of the
United States on August 26, 1920,
a hard-fought victory for women's suffrage.
August 26 is now known as Women's Equality Day.

We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.



Voter Registration Volunteer Opportunities

MARCIA DAOUST

Between now and October 18, you can make a difference in the WV General Election by volunteering for about 2-4 hours to work at a local LWV Voter Registration table.

You probably wonder what you would do and if you have to learn a lot of information. It is easy. All you need is time and the ability to smile and ask people if they are registered to vote. If they are already registered, encourage them to find out if their name is still on the voters' list with up-to-date information. Also, encourage them to verify their current polling place, since the redistricting process caused many changes. They



They

may contact the County Clerk's Office or visit the Secy. Of State' website. If they like, they can fill out official forms at our LWV table. We can provide them with the stamp for mailing.

Jan Gossett and I already operated two such LWV voter registration tables last week and had fun!

Please consider serving on the voter registration team. It can be a one-time commitment, or longer, if you wish. No prior voter registration knowledge is needed. We provide you with handouts and reference material to help you answer any question the public may ask.

I hope you are intrigued by this opportunity, please contact Marcia Daoust with any of your questions. (304) 840-9657 or by email: gmardaoust@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

PHOEBE RANDOLPH

Climate Change Candidate Forum, September 13, 2022
from 6:30-8:00 pm (doors open at 6:00), Marshall Memorial
Student Center, Room BE5

NAACP Meet the Candidates Event, Tuesday September
20, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the AD Lewis Community Center

Deadline to register to vote in November General Election,
October 18, 2022



I just wanted to share updates with you all regarding the candidate forum in Huntington. We are meeting to continue planning the event this Thursday at 11:30am. If anyone from LWV would be interested and available to join, we would appreciate your perspective.

Date: Tuesday, September 13th

Time: 6:30pm to 8:00pm (Doors open at 6:00pm; Reservation of room from 4:00pm to 10:00pm)

Location: Marshall University Memorial Student Center, room BE5 (1 John Marshall Dr, Huntington, WV 25755)

Registration page for attendees: <https://forms.gle/yeUqY3VFR8mhwmpUA>

Facebook page: <https://fb.me/e/2GBTdt1t4>

Candidate invitations: Invitations have been sent via [email](#) and [snail mail](#) ([accompanying formal invitation](#)) to all candidates. See [this spreadsheet](#) for updates on RSVPs. The emails went out this morning and one-quarter of the candidates have already RSVP'd.

Rules and Procedures: We notified candidates that they would receive rules and procedures for the forum one week in advance. We are working on confirming those by end of week. If you all have any suggestions for guidelines to follow, it would be much appreciated.

Agenda and questions: We are collecting written questions in the registration form and begin drafting the questions and agenda after meeting this Thursday. Any advice on this step would be appreciated. We will of course send the questions and agenda draft to you all for feedback.

Save the date blurb: Join the West Virginia Climate Alliance, Marshall University, Citizen Action Group, Environmental Council, and League of Women Voters of WV for a candidate forum on Tuesday, September 13th from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at the Marshall University Memorial Student Center, room BE5 (1 John Marshall Dr, Huntington, WV 25755). Candidates from congressional district 1, senatorial district 5, and delegate districts 24, 25, 26, and 27 are invited to participate in this non-partisan, educational forum. Voters will have the opportunity to hear candidates discuss the future of West Virginia energy, jobs, and justice through the lens of climate change. Candidates will answer written questions from the public and partner organizations during this moderated event. Refreshments will be provided. Register for free and submit your questions here: <https://forms.gle/yeUqY3VFR8mhwmpUA>

Let me know if you have any questions!



I would also like to include a small plug for our Facebook page - if everyone could please like the page and share our posts it would be helpful! www.facebook.com/lwvhuntingtonwv