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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

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LWV Bulletin, January, 2016

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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January 2016 Bulletin - Patricia Keller, Editor

LWVWV website: www.LWVWV.ORG

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$45 individual, \$60 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasure, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

JANUARY LEAGUE MEETING

Gather with League members on January 18 noon at Fratelli's Italian Restaurant (formerly Tascal's), River Place Shopping Center, U.S. 60 East, Barboursville. Our speaker will be Rick Wilson, Area Director of West Virginia Economic Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee, who will talk about Our Children Our Future's legislative priorities that coincide with the League's platform. We will also discuss the League's other priorities. OCOF is a group of more than 170 organizations dedicated to a campaign to end child poverty in West Virginia. The coalition is organized across race, religious, geographic, and ideological lines. The League of Women Voters of WV is one of the participating organizations.

Forty-eight percent of West Virginian children live in a family where their income doesn't cover basic expenses. This generation is the first in decades that is likely to be worse off than their parents. Even life expectancy is shrinking. Our Children Our Future's legislative platform was chosen democratically by nearly 2600 campaign partners and participants. Here are the items chosen for 2016 by 2600:

- Mental Health Matters;
- Protecting Quality Child Care Centers;
- Right to Work is Wrong;
- Second Chance for Employment;
- Tax Reform to Protect Roads, Children, Seniors, and Jobs;
- Juvenile Justice: Redirect and Reinvest;
- Stop Meth Labs;
- Increasing Local Food Access & Profitability;
- Afterschool for All!
- Expand Broadband Access.

ELECTIONS

The League will continue to be active in providing non-partisan information in the upcoming elections -

candidates meetings, candidates' information with the Herald-Dispatch, and other voter information. We hope to increase our voter registration activities. If any of you would like to help in any of our election activities, please contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com or 304-736-3287.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WEST VIRGINIA'S 2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The LWVWV opposes efforts to weaken environmental laws and regulations. In addition the LWVWV (1) Supports reforms of the WV tax system that are broadly based, rely on diverse revenue sources, provide an adequate, stable yield, and treat taxpayers equitably. (2) Supports strengthening disclosure requirements for the sources of political campaign expenditures, including independent expenditures and election-related communications. (3) Supports measures that encourage investment in energy efficiency in West Virginia's homes, businesses, and industries. (4) Supports expanding the availability of services for people who need treatment for mental illness or substance abuse.

LWVWV COMMENTS MADE TO WV AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

The LWVWV sent comments to the WV Department of Environmental Protection on rules for drilling for gas and oil.

The LWVWV sent comments to the WV Department of Environmental Protection on implementing the federal Clean Power Plan in WV.

The LWVWV joined other state organizations in comments on land application of drilling fluids.

The LWVWV joined other state Leagues in sending comments to the US EPA about fracking rules.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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CALENDAR

- January 13. WV Legislature begins its 2016 session.
- January 18. Noon. League meeting, Fratelli's Restaurant.
- Martin Luther King Day. Look for the NAACP's celebration.
- January 25. 11:30. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church LWV Huntington Board Meeting.
- February 20. 10 am. League meeting with Delta Sigma Theta at the West Huntington Library. Robert Wilkinson, Public Defender, will be the speaker.

DIRECTORY OF WV PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WORKERS

Thanks to the Herald-Dispatch the League maintains a list of public officials on the H-D's website. If you google the Herald-Dispatch Directory of WV Public Officials, you can access the list. Please feel free to make suggestions for improvements. We also plan to make available (by email) a "flyer" format of this information.

WV LEGISLATURE

The WV Legislative website provides invaluable information including the lists of legislators, calendars, bills, and even access to streaming meetings. Both WV Public TV and radio provide substantial information about bills passing through the legislature and interviews with legislators. As of January 1 WV Public Broadcasting initiated the WV Channel which was, formerly WVPBS2. The channel will feature live gavel to gavel coverage of the WV Legislature, including

floor sessions and public hearings. The WV Channel will also cover programs about WV and Appalachian culture, history, and current affairs. Occasionally Helen Gibbins will send out action alerts to League members.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

Welcome new members Maurice (Mo) and Nadya Sill and Harriet Tucker.

The Huntington League continues to welcome new members at half-price membership dues – one member, \$23; two members in a household, \$30; full time student, \$13. Dues may be paid to our treasurer, Ann Speer. Mail the check to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701.

Invite your friends to a meeting or sign them up to receive our bulletin by email.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you are not already receiving email from the League and you would like to receive information on opportunities for action on issues or upcoming events, please send your email address to Wendy Thomas, wxtomas@frontier.com or Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com