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### LWV Bulletin, September, 2014

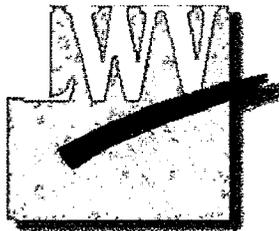
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# The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



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LWVUS website: [www.LWV.ORG](http://www.LWV.ORG)

September 2014 Bulletin - Patricia Keller, Editor

*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, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.*

## A STUDY OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING IN WV

The League is hosting a study/consensus meeting on the funding of libraries on September 15, 6:30 at the Woodlands Retirement Community in the Hampton Room. The public is invited, as always.

Leagues around the state will study the same materials and answer the same questions with the aim of developing a position on the topic. The need for the study/consensus came in response to a WV court decision that removed the guaranteed funding for Kanawha and some other counties' library systems. The Huntington League has added a question asking our members if they believe that the Huntington League should support the funding of the Cabell County library system.

Local Library funding was the subject of a series of interim committee meetings in 2013, and a bill was presented to the Legislature proposing a statewide method. It did not pass, but another bill is expected to be presented in the 2015 Session. The WV Library Commission and WV Library Association are studying the issue further, and will work with some of the legislators on a new bill, not yet decided. Public libraries are a major community resource in Cabell County and all of West Virginia. Of course, there are books, e-books, videos and recordings available for loan at no cost. Most libraries have good reference resources, local history and genealogy sections available to all. Children and youth keep their sections busy. Visually impaired people have special resources available by mail. Library computers are available for internet research, job applications, recreational reading, and much more. Classes teach many skills, including computers. Libraries offer community meeting spaces for educational and entertaining programs. You will be surprised at the range of services available.

At this time, Cabell's library system is one of the best funded libraries in West Virginia. This is because much of our local funding is mandated by law from the County and

the school system. Most libraries in West Virginia depend more heavily than Cabell on annually voted funds from various government bodies in their counties. Some libraries are better funded than others, but having to depend on annual appropriations is not secure and dependable. Cabell County also receives funds that are voted annually, from Milton and Barboursville. Huntington at this time does not contribute. Besides local funding, state funds from Grants in Aid depend on annual appropriations from the state Legislature. Wendy Thomas and Betty Barrett will present the state League of Women Voters' study on local funding of public libraries, and ask for consensus. A copy of the West Virginia League's study is available on its website, at <http://www.lwvww.org/state-studies/>.

## UPCOMING CANDIDATES MEETINGS

The League is working with other organizations to plan candidates meetings. On October 2 at 7 pm, we are co-sponsoring the meeting with the Southside Neighborhood Organization at the Junior League Community Center, 617 Ninth Avenue. We have invited candidates for delegate districts 16 and 17 and for the Cabell County Commission. The audience will submit questions to the moderator and all of the candidates will be allowed to answer the questions.

On October 20, 6:30 pm at Woodlands Retirement Center candidates for Delegate District 17 and the Cabell County Commission have been invited to answer questions through the moderator.

We are also working with other members of Our Children, Our Future on planning for an October 9 candidates meeting (place yet to be determined). Jeanette Rowsey and Laura Deveny are the League's representatives on the planning committee.

October 7 is the date for a TV candidates' meeting for U.S. Senator.

**OUR CHILDREN OUR FUTURE**

In July Jeanette Rowsey, Rose Riter, Laura Deveny, and Helen Gibbins attended a regional workshop to discuss what policies WV should enact to eliminate child poverty across West Virginia. The workshops were hosted by the WV Healthy Kids and Families Coalition, the West Virginia Community Development Hub, and the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. The follow up to the regional workshops will be the September 9 and 10 Symposium at the Charleston Civic Center where participants will set legislative goals for the future. The Our Children, Our Future Campaign comprises a group of 160+ policy advocates, service providers, religious leaders, parents, labor and business leaders, including the League of Women Voters.

**CALENDAR**

- Sept. 15. 6:30 pm. Study/Consensus Meeting on Funding Libraries in WV at Woodlands Retirement Center.
- Oct. 2, 7 pm. Candidates meeting at the Junior League Community Center
- Oct. 9. Candidates meeting with Our Children Our Future; Place to be announced later.
- Oct. 20, 6:30 pm. Woodlands Retirement Center.

**LECTURE SERIES**

The Amicus Curiae Lectures on Constitutional Democracy is a series that Marshall University sponsors at the Erickson Alumni Center, 7 pm.

On September 11, Laura Donohue will discuss the legality and constitutionality of the intelligence community programs that collect large amounts of information about U.S. Citizens.

On October 7 David Stewart's speech "American Emperor: Aaron Burr's Challenge to Jefferson's America" will focus on individual rights vs. government power.

**Cabell County Planning Commission**

The next meeting of the Cabell County Planning Commission is scheduled for September 25, at the Milton Elementary School.

The CCPC is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan for Cabell County outside of Huntington, Barboursville, and Milton.

The Commission is asking for input from residents. What is incorporated into a plan could have consequences for all of us. See [cabellcountyplan.com](http://cabellcountyplan.com) for more information.

**LWVUS ADVOCACY**

For 48 years the Voting Rights Act has been a protector of the right to vote, particularly in states where attempts were made to curtail that right. Damage was done to the VRA when the Supreme Court in Shelby v. Holder erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting. Following the Supreme Court's decision we have seen an all-out attack on voting rights across the country. In response, the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act was introduced in the House to repair the damage from the Supreme Court's decision, but it is stalled. Tell your Representative to vote to move the VRAA forward..

On September 21, the League will join with the People's Climate March and Demonstration in New York City. The UN will be gathering for a summit on the climate crisis where leaders around the world will make commitments to fight climate change. Organizations from across the country are mobilizing to show support for the fight against climate change. For additional information and to get involved, visit [peoplesclimate.org](http://peoplesclimate.org).

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