

League of Women Voters Of Wood County WV

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LWVWV www.lwvww.org LWVUS www.lwv.org

Voter

February 2018



Mark Your Calendar

Sat. Feb. 24 1:30 p.m. Movie *Blood on the Mountain*
Vienna Library – see below
Monday, March 12 noon LWVWC Board Meeting
Das Rookhaus, 2911 Dudley Ave.
Tuesday, March 20 6:00 p.m. LWVWC
Annual Meeting, see below

Blood on the Mountain Documentary Saturday, Feb. 24 1:30 p.m. Vienna Public Library Open to the Public

February 24 Movie: “*Blood on the Mountain* is a searing investigation into the economic and environmental injustices that have resulted from coal company control in West Virginia. This feature documentary details the struggles of a hard-working, misunderstood people, who have historically faced limited choices and have never benefited fairly from the rich, natural resources of their land.”

LWVWC Annual Meeting

**Tuesday, March 20, 6:00 p.m.
Colombo’s Restaurant**

Guest speaker will be Lindsey Kerr Piersol, Director of the Wood County Economic Development Office. The Office works to encourage and assist in locating new businesses and expanding existing ones in the local area. The goal is to expand opportunities for employment by assisting with planning for development for and growing the local economic base.

Spouses and guests are welcome.

Plan to order from Colombo’s menu, which can be viewed at <http://www.colombosrest.com/index.html>

There will be a brief business meeting following the speaker. More details on the agenda will be sent out before the meeting.



2018 WV Legislative Session

The legislative session has passed the halfway point and the pace of action is picking up. Note that the House is now operating on its Special Calendar, so when you look at the Bulletin Board, check Special Calendar for bills on the agenda for a given day.

(For those not at our 1/23 meeting, a list of how-to’s for the legislative web site is either included with snail-mailed Voters or attached to the email with emailed Voters.)

Some updates;

SJR 12, a proposed constitutional amendment which would spell out that the WV constitution does not guarantee the right to abortion or require funding for it. This would leave all regulation up to the Legislature, which would likely lead to abortion being excluded from Medicaid coverage. The Senate passed SJR 12. It is now in the House Judiciary Committee, which has not yet taken it up. A 2/3 vote in both houses is required to place an amendment on the ballot. The League opposes this amendment, believing that Medicaid recipients are entitled to the full range of reproductive health care.

SJR 3 a constitutional amendment that would give the Legislature oversight of the Judicial branch’s budget. Passed Senate, in House Finance, then to Judiciary.

HB 4002 requiring creation of 100 single member districts for the House of Delegates has passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee. This would affect 3-member District 10 in Wood County.

HB 4001 affects eligibility requirements for several safety-net programs like SNAP and TANIF and authorizes hiring of a private company to search out ineligible recipients. The bill was amended in committee after a public hearing at which 21 of 23 speakers, including the LWVWV, opposed the bill. A pilot project for the program in nine counties eliminated 5400 from eligibility but showed no increase in overall employment. 4001 is on 2nd reading (amendment stage) Monday in the House.*

HB 2383 concerns redistricting. A committee substitute was passed out of House Judiciary Committee with recommendation that it pass. An amendment to add language creating an independent redistricting commission was rejected on a party line vote. Opponents of the amendment say the current process has worked, and that the listed restrictions on the parameters that may be used listed in the Committee Substitute version offer sufficient assurance of a constitutional redistricting. Time will tell if it does reduce partisan influences in the process. SB 54 does create an independent commission and is closer to what the LWV would like, but has not been taken up in the Senate Government Organization Committee.

SB 270 would permit logging in state parks. The original bill was amended in committee to make it only a pilot project in Watoga State Park. The Natural Resources Committee has held discussions but not yet passed out the bill.

HB 3004 that requires that a vacancy in office be filled by a person of the same party as the office-holder vacating the office at the time the vacancy occurred. This addresses confusion that occurs when an office-holder has changed party since being elected. Passed by both houses with Senate amendment to which House is asked to concur.

(Several bills were introduced related to election laws and campaigns financing that have not been taken up in committees. The Legislature usually does not make major changes to election laws in election years.)

HB 4268, the Co-tenancy Modernization and Majority Protection Act passed the House and is in the Senate Energy Committee.

HB 4298, NRA model legislation, denies institutions of higher education the authority to restrict or regulate the carrying of a concealed deadly weapon by a person who holds a current license to carry a concealed deadly weapon. The House Education committee has recommended that it pass. It is now in the Judiciary Committee.

***Take Action: HB 4001** is a punitive bill designed to reduce the number of people receiving benefits from safety net programs like SNAP and TANF. Contact your Delegates and ask them to vote No.

Be an advocate. Contact your representatives on any bill of interest to you and tell them how you want them to vote. Even if you are sure they do not agree with you, they need to know that not all their constituents agree.



LWV of Wood County
25 Lynnwood Dr.
Vienna WV 26105

**Blood on the Mountain
Documentary
Saturday, Feb. 24 1:30 p.m.
Vienna Public Library
Open to the Public**

Membership in the LWV is open to all.
To join the LWVWC, send a check payable
to LWVWC for \$45 (plus \$25 for each additional
member at the same address) to the LWVWC Treasurer,
1 Fox Hill Dr., Parkersburg WV 26104
Write "dues" on the memo line.

Legislative Deadlines

February 25 Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for reading

February 28 Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin.

March 10 Adjournment at midnight

From LWVUS

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017 on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems while supporting implementation in states across the country.

The League is a leader in voter registration efforts across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principal goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

The League fully supports this bill and urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation.