



Annual Meeting

May 21, 2023

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

2:00 p.m. (1:30-2:00 check in)

Agenda

Guest Speaker

Katie Hill, M.D.

“Challenges of Medical Practice in West Virginia and the WVU MUSHROOM program”:

Dr. Katie Hill is Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Practice, WVU School of Medicine. She will talk about her experiences in other countries, and how we can address healthcare disparities in West Virginia. She is currently the director of the MUSHROOM program (Multidisciplinary Unsheltered Homeless Relief Outreach Of Morgantown).

Questions/ Discussion with speaker

Business Meeting (begins at 3:00)

President’s report—Judy Ball

Secretary’s report—Vicki Conner

Treasurer’s report

Finance report for May 2023 – Vicky Shears

Proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-2024 – Vicky Shears

Adoption of proposed budget

Review of non-partisanship policy – Judy Ball

Nominations for Directors and Officers 2023-2025 – Vicki Conner

- **Call for Nominations from the Floor**
- **Election of Directors and Officers**

Review and Adoption of Local Program – Judy Ball

Motions from the Floor

Motion to Adjourn

Interim President's Report



Greetings! I am Judy Ball, and for those who don't know, I began serving as Interim President of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County back in January when then-President Sarah Barnes resigned.

I have been a League member for many years here and in Corvallis, Oregon, but this new role has turned out to be different from anything I anticipated. One challenge has been leading an ever-shrinking Board. After Sarah's resignation, we also lost Marly Ynigues, who left us to run for Morgantown City Council, and Penny Thomas. Other Board members have been away due to illness. I am forever grateful for the dependable contributions and assistance from remaining Board members, including Vicki Conner, Lyndell Millecchia, Duane Nichols, Vicky Shears, and Jonathan Rosenbaum.

This 2023 annual meeting marks the beginning of a new year for LWVMM. This is when we start to tackle rebuilding our Board and our membership.

Related to that, the League of Women Voters of West Virginia (LWVWV) launched a new initiative last summer: the League Legislative Action Workgroup (LLAW, pronounced "L-law"). LLAW was founded in recognition that the League's legislative advocacy was not achieving its goals. The LLAW solution was to assemble a cadre of League members from across the state and extend our advocacy and educational efforts to year-round coverage. Previously, unsuccessful efforts had been concentrated just prior to and during the legislative session.

LLAW operates on one fundamental assumption, which I think can be applied to everything the League does:



In other words, League members working in concert can become a force multiplier, a tool that amplifies individual efforts to produce more together.

During its first year, LLAW's priorities focused on voting/voter registration and voter information.

1. Voting/Voter Registration, beginning with “good” bills introduced in 2022 Legislature
 - Permit universal absentee voting
 - Remove felonies as disqualifier for voting after sentence served
 - Online voters’ guide
 - Same-day voter registration
 - Mandate SOS to implement Electronic Voter Registration
2. Voter Information
 - Expand voter information efforts
 - Highlight votes by legislator

Were we successful? Yes, if success can be measured in terms of bad things not happening. During this year’s legislative session, some bad things did happen, but more bad things were averted. On balance, I count that as success.

And so we carry on. LLAW, the LWVWV, and LWVMM are all in the process of adopting new, expanded priorities for the coming year.

What can LWV of Morgantown-Monongalia County do?

First, we can take a page from LLAW’s book. Everyone has something to bring to the League’s efforts. And we welcome that. We welcome ideas, especially new ideas, to re-invigorate LWVMM.

Consider this a “call to arms,” for all LWVMM members. We need your support and volunteerism to help keep the fire of democracy alive. And like any fire, our fire needs air and fuel.

We need volunteers to take the lead in our policy priority areas and to help with our efforts in promoting voter turnout, voting rights, equal rights, protections for children and families, care for the environment, and more. As always, we need people to continue to write letters, contact representatives in the Legislature and Congress, talk to neighbors and family. And, sometimes we need your help to adapt old methods and adopt new ones to match the importance of our mission. For example, the pace of the 60-day Legislature is so swift that snail mail will rarely reach its legislative recipient in time for action.

Second, let’s be frank. Remaining non-partisan appears to be increasingly difficult for the League. But it is not impossible. The League is often accused of partisanship because so many of our positions fit in that bucket currently labeled “progressive.” The irony is that many — perhaps most — of those positions were squarely middle of the road and bipartisan when they were adopted.

What we have today is a political culture shifted so far right that the League stands out as being “progressive” simply by standing still. In West Virginia, it is notable that most bills passed by the Legislature -- even the worst ones -- tend to have bipartisan majorities. Therefore, objecting to those remains a non-partisan endeavor. And to keep voters informed, we have chosen to name names from many of those votes.

Third, we must not assume the adversaries of democracy will be victorious. We cannot accept that. We cannot afford to be hopeless. We cannot surrender.

Yes, it can be frustrating and easy to feel as though we are regressing. Make no mistake, left unchecked, the forces of ignorance and oppression will seize any opportunity to continue their fight for control and wrest the will of the people away in favor of the will of the few.

Through the League you can be involved in helping us push back on the false narrative that to protect democracy and our Constitutional system we should become more authoritarian, retract rights, and discriminate against vulnerable groups.

The key to thwarting these threats is right here in each and every one of us. You are already part of an organization committed to protecting the right and ability to vote – for all of us. And the vote is what underlies all other policy change. A priority for the West Virginia League is understanding why so few people in our state actually vote and attempting to turn that tide.

As they say at WVU, Let's Go!

We are all in this together and we can protect our democracy. Our board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month over Zoom. These meetings are open to all members.

While virtual meetings are not everyone's cup of tea, the pandemic taught us that Zoom enables participation that is not otherwise practical. For that reason, we will continue our virtual get togethers.

Thank you for being a member of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County. Please contact me or the board with any questions. Just send an email to lwmorgantown@gmail.com.



Judy K. Ball
Interim President

Finance Report May 15, 2023

	Actual 2022-2023	Budget 2022-2023		
INCOME				
Dues (\$48 primary, \$24 additional, student \$5)	\$ 1,421.00	\$ 2,405.00		
Member Contributions (other than dues)	\$ 82.00	\$ 300.00		
Fund Raising & misc. contributions	\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	***	
*Fund Raising for General Election Voters Service	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	*	
Reserves (general)		\$ 150.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,603.00	\$ 6,055.00		
EXPENSES				
Board and Administrative Committees				
President		\$ 10.00		
Secretary		\$ 10.00		
Treasurer	\$ 12.00	\$ 50.00		
Board Tools and Expenses		\$ 20.00		
Finance Committee (fund raising)		\$ 75.00		
Membership Committee	\$ 138.00	\$ 100.00		
PayPal Fees	\$ 19.33	\$ 15.00		
Delegates, Travel, and Affiliations				
State Convention/Council		\$ 50.00		
National Convention		\$ 100.00		
Annual Meeting		\$ 200.00		
Financial Support for the League				
State LWV (\$8 primary, \$4 additional, student 0)	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00		
National LWV (\$32 primary, \$16 additional, student 0)	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,600.00		
Newsletter				
*Digital Communications (Zoom, webpage, other)		\$ 250.00		
Educational Activities				
Publications (Guide to Gov. Officials)		\$ 100.00		
Program Committees		\$ 100.00		
** Voters Service (Forum room fees, handouts, mailings)	\$ 828.00	\$ 100.00	** & ***	
Publicity		\$ 50.00		
Voters Service for General Election (advertising)	2,800.00	2,800.00	*	
Position Support				
Publications on League Positions Miscellaneous Action (CCSI)	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,822.33	\$ 6,055.00		
Balance 4/19/2023	\$ 1,999.01			
Income	\$ 564.00			
Expenses	\$ 9.74			
Balance 5/14/2023	\$ 2,553.27			
Dues and PMP for 2022-2023 are based on February 1, 2022 count: 43 primary, 14 additional, 1 student, 1 life (59 total)				
* LWV-WV gave check for \$2800 for Dominion Post insert.				
** Note: West TV gave \$210 to the League on 5/31/22 to defray fall forum expenses				
***Morgantown Chapter of NOW contributed \$300 for putting up/taking down banner; Invoice Pd Totaled \$618.00				

LWV Morgantown-Monongalia County Proposed Budget 2023-2024

			Budget 2022-2023	Proposed 2023-2024	Note
INCOME					
Dues (\$48 primary, \$24 additional, student \$5)			\$ 2,405.00	\$ 2,261.00	Note #1
Member Contributions (other than dues)			\$ 300.00	\$ 100.00	
Fund Raising & misc. contributions			\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	
Fund Raising for General Election Voters Service			\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	
Reserves (general)			\$ 150.00	\$ 124.00	
TOTAL INCOME			\$ 6,055.00	\$ 2,885.00	
EXPENSES					
Board and Administrative Committees					
President			\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
Secretary			\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	
Treasurer			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Board Tools and Expenses			\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	
Finance Committee (fund raising)			\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	
Membership Committee			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
PayPal Fees			\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00	
Delegates, Travel, and Affiliations					
State Convention/Council			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
National Convention			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Annual Meeting			\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	Speaker Honorarium, Printing & Mailing
Financial Support for the League					
State LWV (\$8 primary, \$4 additional, student 0)			\$ 400.00	\$ 376.00	
National LWV (\$32 primary, \$16 additional, student 0)			\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,504.00	
Newsletter					
			\$ -		
*Digital Communications (Zoom, webpage, other)			\$ 250.00	\$ -	Note #2
Educational Activities					
Publications (Guide to Gov. Officials)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Program Committees			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Voters Service (Forum room fees, handouts, mailings)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Publicity			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Voters Service for General Election (advertising)			\$ 2,800.00	\$ -	
Position Support					
Publications on League Positions					
Miscellaneous Action (CCSJ)			\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES			\$ 6,055.00	\$ 2,885.00	
Note #1					
Dues and PMP for 2022-2023 are based on February 1, 2022 count: 43 primary, 14 additional, 1 student, 1 life (59 total)					
Dues and PMP for 2023-2024 are based on February 1, 2023 count: 42 primary, 10 additional, 1 student, 2 life (55 total)					
Note #2					
*Digital Communicatons in 2022-23 totaled \$0					
Zoom license is now covered by the State LWV					
Web service - Dreamhost - was a promo for 3 years, for \$142.20, paid up until October 2024, when the cost will be \$10.99/month.					
Streamyard , used for putting forums on facebook, is \$25/month, only when used.					
	2022-2023				
	Actuals	2023-2024	2024-2025		
Digital Communications					
Zoom	-	-			
Webpage	-	-	87.92		
Streamyard	-	-	-		
Total	-	-	87.92		
Budget Committee: Lyndell Millecchia, Chair; Nancy Ulrich and Vicky Shears					

NONPARTISANSHIP POLICY

League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County Adopted April 2023

The purpose of this policy is to assure the credibility of the League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County as a **nonpartisan organization which does not support or oppose any political party or candidate**. Only to the extent that the public and its elected officials are convinced of the League's genuine nonpartisanship will the League be able to render effective voters service and gain a wide base of support for its positions on governmental issues. Board Members and individual members of the LWV may act as private citizens, with the following guidelines:

Board of Directors

- The Board has the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization.
- Board Members should not run for or hold any elective office and should formally resign from the board at the time of filing for candidacy. However, board members, except for the President, may be elected or appointed to a political executive committee, as long as they do not represent themselves as League members.
- Except for the President, who has a special obligation to uphold the nonpartisanship of the LWV, Board Members **may** campaign for a political candidate.
- Board members may campaign for a ballot measure, such as a levy or referendum, if it is compatible with League positions on the issue.

Representing League

- When working with the public, League members must always be informed and aware of the League's position on issues and nonpartisanship.
- When acting as a League representative, a member should not engage in any communications or activities that could serve to undermine the League's position.
- Members of the League may not publicly identify themselves as members of the League, and then express opinions in direct opposition to positions held by the League.
- Public statements, petitions, and on-line solicitations of any kind made on behalf of the League must first be approved by the Board of Directors.

Serving on Commissions

- Members may serve on governmental commissions at their own discretion. If the appointment is League related, the appointee should be fully aware of the League positions as they relate to the commission's responsibilities.

Public Meetings

- Members in leadership roles at local league and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment. Candidate signs and leaflets are permitted at forums.
- Only Board of Directors-approved petitions may be circulated at League meetings or online.

Political Activities of Family Members

- The political activities of a spouse or relative of a Board Member should be considered as separate and distinct from the activities of the Board Member.

League Roster

- The League's roster is not to be made available for non-League use without Board consent.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
4/20/2023

Nominating Committee Report

Presented by the 2023 nominating committee:

Vicki Conner and Jonathan Rosenbaum (Board Rep.), Cindy O'Brien

Nominations 2022-2024

Position	Name	Term Expires
President	Judy Ball	2025
Vice President	Vicki Conner	2025
Secretary	Nancy Ulrich	2025
Treasurer	Vicky Shears	2024
Director	Jonathan Rosenbaum	2025
Director	Shirley Rosenbaum	2025
Director	Autumn Summers	2025
Director (unexp. Term)	Lyndell Millecchia	2024
Director (unexp. Term)	Janet Paine	2024
Nom. com. Board Rep.	Shirley Rosenbaum	2024
Nominating committee	Cindy O'Brien	2024
Nominating committee		2024

Continuing Board Member

Position		2023
Director	Duane Nichols	2024

Proposed Local Program 2023-2024

1) *Voting and Democracy:*

The right to vote and equal access to the ballot are pillars of U.S. democracy and guiding principles for the League of Women Voters (LWV).

2023-2024 Priorities:

- a. Support non-partisan redistricting efforts.
- b. Oppose restrictions on voter registration.
- c. Oppose voter ID requirements that present barriers to voting.
- d. Advocate for ways to increase voter turnout, based on lessons learned from the 2020 elections:
 - Oppose any legislation that would restrict voting.
 - Advocate for legislation to make voting easier while protecting election security, including no-excuse absentee voting and expanded options for ballot return and early in-person voting.
- e. Engage city/county officials, party committees, and other stakeholders on barriers to voting, such as educational/informational barriers and access to polling places. Focus outreach on proposed legislation to modernize election methods, reduce taxpayer costs, and reduce administrative burden.
- f. Oppose any effort to make campaign funding less transparent and more open to wealthy voters to the detriment of other voters.

2) *Social Justice:*

The LWV is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in principle and in practice. We are all responsible for making Morgantown, Monongalia County, and the state of West Virginia welcoming and inclusive communities.

2023-2024 Priorities:

- a. Identify and collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations to make social justice principles a reality in Morgantown and Monongalia County. This includes working to provide housing, warming centers, and services for the unhoused.
- b. Oppose legislative efforts to suppress civil and Constitutional rights.
- c. Work to protect privacy for medical information; oppose efforts to mandate release of such information to schools or sports organizations (i.e., gender at birth or menstrual cycles).
- d. Advocate for state and Federal legislation to protect LGBTQ rights, including protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.
- e. Oppose legislation that prohibits access to medical procedures or medication.

3) *Environmental Protection:*

Climate change is no longer a distant or future threat. It has become a climate crisis for which near-term responses are needed. The LWV seeks to protect the health and safety of all West Virginians as well as our planet Earth.

2023-2024 Priorities:

- a. Support strategic management of natural resources to protect the planet for this and future generations.

- b. Advocate for environmental priorities that are coupled with a creative and just transition for workers in fossil fuel industries.
- c. Oppose facilities that add, expand, or preserve dependence on fossil fuels.
- d. Advocate passage of nuisance legislation that would alleviate problems of industrial noise, medical waste, or odor.
- e. Recognize, support, and advocate with other organizations to promote our environmental protection priorities. Ensure that new technologies, such as carbon sequestration, are fully understood by the public.

4) Other Areas:

The following priorities and others will be pursued as circumstances demand and resources are available:

Local Government:

Monitor issues considered by area City Councils and the County Commission, and entities such as BOPARC, MM Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Mylan Foundation to enable us to be prepared to advocate for/against actions that may impact the community.

Education:

Advocate for legislation and policies to support well-funded, equity-based public education while opposing legislation that diverts funding and fails to prioritize disadvantaged students. Oppose legislative intrusion into areas delegated to governing bodies of institutions of learning, specifically boards of education for public schools and universities (i.e. textbook choices or course structuring). Work to keep funds centered on public schools, not diverted to Private schools.

Broadband Access:

Advocate for and support access to high-speed, affordable broadband for all residents, schools, libraries, and businesses in the county and state.