**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**March 19, 2022, 9:30 AM**

**State Board Meeting by Video Conference**

**Board:** Julie Archer & Effie Kallas, Co-Presidents; Nancy Ulrich, 1st Vice President; Judy Ball, 2nd Vice President; Teresa Koon, Treasurer; Carline Shaw, Secretary; Directors: Betty Barrett, Nyoka Baker Chapman, Vicki Conner, Jonathan Rosenbaum, Shirley Rosenbaum. Absent: none

9:30 a.m. Call to Order/Agenda Changes/Additions Effie Kallas

9:35 a.m. Board Minutes – January 8 Carline Shaw Approved

9:40 a.m. Treasurer’s Report Teresa Koon Approved

 Budget Committee Update (if any)

9:45 a.m. Announcements/New & Unfinished Business

**Informational Items** – (Several events since our last meeting.)

* January 8 - Informational meeting with Seneca Lake Guardian on Cryptocurrency mining, the use of Fossil Fuels for Energy Sources, and Environmental Impact
* January 11 - Public Hearing on Marion Energy Partners Air Quality Permit – Nyoka attended, and the air permit has been approved since. There is a challenge, and 2 vacancies on the commission. Draft letter to Chris Alder addresses how data centers are licensed. Public at meeting asked about noise and aesthetics of looking at plant, but they aren’t addressed by air quality.
* January 18 – WV Climate Alliance Informational meeting on Advance Nuclear – Nyoka attended – addressed small reactors, info in her report. SB 4 was passed. People hope this will help us reach Net 0, but illegal in WV to store nuclear waste, so many issues still.
* February 19 – Democracy and Social Justice Forum/Legislative Briefing – Judy Ball and Kim Crockett were speakers. Link to Video & Slides: <https://lwvwv.org/2022/02/18/democracy-and-social-justice-forum/>
* March 9 – Bill Tracker Tutorial - <https://joint.wvlegislature.gov/fileshare/index.php/f/277> - John Tice is web creator for system, and he was taking notes to improve the site!

**Announcements/Upcoming Events**

* April 22 – Transfer of Climate Time Capsule to Marshall University Library Archives (Nyoka) – Expects Julie to join, they applied for having a booth. Expect to open capsule April 2050. Considering opening Hydrogen Hub, looking at Pipeline again, may have to supply energy for rest of world. Julie thinks LWVWV should reimburse Nyoka for her personal expenses in Time Capsule – she says not necessary, did as part of Climate Alliance and because personal interest.

**New Business**

* Need 3rd person on Nominating Committee – Julie suggested Becky Ceperley, and will contact her. Effie asked Debbie Royalty and she can’t do. Same with Lyn Widmyer.

**Unfinished Business**

* Voter Services(continuation of discussions via e-mail) – Vicki & Julie
* Congressional Candidate Voter’s Guide/Forums – discussed having a forum for the congressional candidates. 2nd District (northern) may do. Vicki says can’t get them to send answers to 3 questions, so don’t know if they would participate. Have received responses from 3 candidates after 3 reminders. Judy thinks we should keep pursuing because the voters need

 it. Nyoka thinks candidates are missing an opportunity to publicize their candidacy, so offer it with info on how we will promote the forum. LWV generally doesn’t publicize lack of responses, but can note in extraordinary circumstances. Nancy suggests partnering w/ news and TV stations. Vicki says Herald Dispatch needs submissions by 21Mar, not sure of other’s deadlines. 25Apr at 7 pm Stubblefield Inst. has public meeting with David McKinley. Effie says last month one of political executive committees told members to NOT attend any LWV functions. Effie willing to ask Stubblefield if they will use our questions and give us credit, but not when only one candidate or non-partisan.

* + Questions/Voter’s Guide for House of Delegates/State Senate - Vicki says Mon Co. hasn’t solidified list of questions yet. Julie says LWVUS has Vote411 website, and Megan Brown has offered to approach the candidates in areas not covered by local LWV’s. She would like only 3-5 questions. LWVJC isn’t doing anything. Nyoka says her local is working on some offices, and Martha has best list. Kathy Stoltz is working on Wood Co. Vicki has been working with them. No Supreme Court election this time because of law change. Judy tried to focus on one question for each of our 3 priorities, and avoid yes/no questions. Nyoka thought maybe the candidates found the questions challenging and couldn’t answer. Nancy said new candidates may not have access to facts needed for good answers, also, they are probably not focused on our 3 priorities. Julie says we will discuss more by email.
* Speaker(s) & Agenda for Council – May 21 via Zoom – Pass Budget & other businesses. Only Presidents invited to vote. No Board elections. May have speaker.
	+ Planning Committee? Julie suggested speaker on education, critical race theory, or Nov. ballot on Constitutional Amendment giving legislature power over state BOE decisions. Nancy favors a forum on the ballot issue illuminating both sides. Nyoka would like wording on the amendment. [Bill Status - Complete Resolution History (wvlegislature.gov)](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/Resolution_History.cfm?year=2022&sessiontype=rs&input4=102&billtype=JR&houseorig=H&btype=res) Open speaker portion to public or just make video public? Julie will chair planning committee, with Vicki & Shirley assisting.
* Zoom Account – LWVWV has been using Mon Co account, and they are worried about security and use of limited storage. Jonathan wonders if locals would like to use a state Zoom as resource. Judy says LWVWV could have an enterprise account with locals being designated users. That would allow more storage. Enterprise acct is $240/yr, and has extra features like unlimited cloud storage, 500 users, webinar function so only panel are on screen. Allows multiple meetings at the same time. **Judy moved for LWVWV to purchase enterprise acct, designating locals as subsidiaries. Jonathan 2nd. Passed unanimously.** Teresa will buy the acct, Jonathan and Vicki will admin.

 (Holding space for announcements, updates on the following, if any)

* Policy Review/Updates (Jonathan Rosenbaum)
* Update Position on Election Reform, Voter Access/Ease of Voting (Judy Ball)
* Update Positions on Health Care, Libraries (Betty Barrett)

 Note: Concurrence policy and examples shared via email prior to January board meeting.

11:05 am Portfolio & Committee Reports (related to items not previously discussed, acted upon)

* Education & Membership Shirley Rosenbaum – MALs=25, Hunt=54, Morg=62, Wood=18, Jeff=41. Thanks to Teresa for member numbers and Judy for Gazette Education article. SB 246 – Water bottle filling station for each 200 people in school, HB 4571 Electric Bus Incentive – built in WV or electric. SB 228 Free Tuition for Vista or Senior Corp participants. SB 268 Micro-Schools or Learning Pods. HB 4600 Special Protection for Students with Disabilities. [Bill Status - Complete Resolution History (wvlegislature.gov)](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/Resolution_History.cfm?year=2022&sessiontype=rs&input4=102&billtype=JR&houseorig=H&btype=res)
* Election Laws Judy Ball – tracked ~ 60 bills, 10 passed. Report submitted. **Moved to form a small committee to consider how a strategy for making our legislative activity concerning election law could be organized to be more sustained and effective. 2nd Carline, passed unanimously.** [Republicans Push to Crackdown on Voter Fraud - The New York Times (nytimes.com)](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/17/us/politics/republican-voter-fraud.html)
* Fair Maps/Redistricting Nyoka Baker Chapman – hopes to have another committee meeting soon. Every state’s situation has been different. Much litigation going on, tho none in WV. Judy will join. Nyoka feels being able to see the maps during the public meeting is critical. [Bill Status - Complete Bill History (wvlegislature.gov)](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_History.cfm?input=4099&year=2022&sessiontype=rs)
* Health Care Betty Barrett – Emergency School Food Bill passed at last minute. Requirement to show proof of COVID vaccination was controversial. Only thing on abortion passed was a token bill protecting Down’s Syndrome and other disabilities. Hoped funds for insulin medication would pass, but didn’t. Nothing new on substance abuse passed.
* Judicial Selection Nancy Ulrich – left early (on vacation) – no special election [Nine apply for vacant Supreme Court seat - WV MetroNews](https://wvmetronews.com/2022/03/18/nine-apply-for-vacant-supreme-court-seat/)
* Natural Resources Nyoka Baker Chapman – SB 1 passed with Tax Funds being used. SB 4 lifts Ban on Nuclear Power Plants. HB 408 Allows Commercial buildings near State Parks. A Water Quality Bill passed, others failed, including one providing extra inspectors. Submitted her draft letter to Chris Alder, Judy suggests replacing “contact” with “request” in intro. Asked if this is a FOIA request. Nyoka says going to a General Councel, so will consider if FOIA later. **Judy moved that LWVWV send this letter. Passed w/ one abstention.**
	+ including follow up/next steps from DEP hearing on MEP Science Center, if any
* Taxation & Finance Vicki Conner – Amendment on taxing personal property of business to be voted on in Nov. In report.
* Voter Teresa Koon – deadline is 3Apr. Limit of 800 words per contributor.
* Website & Tech Jonathan Rosenbaum – link added to Chat for new website, not secure yet. Plan to move content in April. Will try to have new theme out before Council. [Privacy error (lwvwv.org)](https://dev.lwvwv.org/)
	+ including update/next steps on website redesign project discussed at January meeting

11:53 a.m. Adjourn

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CALENDAR

April 3 VOTER Deadline

April 22 Transfer of Climate Time Capsule from LWVWV to Marshall University Library Archives

May 10 Primary Election (More Primary Election Dates & Deadlines at [GoVoteWV.com](https://sos.wv.gov/elections/Pages/GoVoteWV.aspx))

May 21 Board Meeting and State Council

June 23 – June 27 LWVUS Convention (Denver, CO) Probably Hybrid. Jonathan asked about registration deadlines. Julie offered to look for more info from LWVUS and share on email.