

Community Coalition for Social Justice
P.O. Box 160
Morgantown, West Virginia 26507-0160
ccsjwv@hotmail.com
www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html

Update: 7 February 2004

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 7 p.m. Public Safety Building Conference Room. Please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

Economic Justice Committee Update

Dave Cormier is working with a graduate student on a comparison of income distributions, poverty, and related information for households, married-couple families, female headed households and non-family households, at the national, state, and Monongalia County levels. This information will eventually lead to a picture of working household well-being (or lack of it) for Monongalia County. Any one who wants to become involved is welcome. For further information about the study, please contact Dave at DRCormier@mail.wvu.edu. Tim Hairston will announce the next committee meeting, so please contact him at questz1@adelphia.net.

CCSJ Co-sponsored Rally with ADAPT on January 19th

ADAPT WV, an advocacy group for people with disabilities, and CCSJ members met at the First Presbyterian Church on Monday evening, January 19th, at 7 pm. to address the need for services for individuals with disabilities. It was much too cold for many people to walk, but the conversation was quite animated at the church, and we appreciate First Presbyterian Church allowing us to meet there.

The discussion focused on promoting viable community-based alternatives for facility placement for people with disabilities so that they are not forced to live in nursing homes or other institutional settings due to lack of alternatives. We also saw a video that features interviews with individuals who have lived in nursing homes. One of the issues we discussed was that at least some attendants for people with disabilities are paid such low wages that it is difficult for them to keep these jobs for long.

If you are interested in this issue and want to help ADAPT WV lobby the state legislature to adopt appropriate Medicare Community Assistance and Services Support Act (MECASSA) legislation here, please contact Ken Ervin at adapatwv@hotmail.com or Mike Sharley at MJSharleyLaw@aol.com.

Spring Networking Meeting

We are planning to sponsor another meeting in April to promote networking among local groups who share our interests so that we can identify common goals and potential strategies to address our concerns. We'll be announcing more details soon, but, until then, feel free to share your ideas with Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net.

II. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND IDEAS!

If you have not yet done so, please send your dues so that we have the resources to continue our work. **Dues are \$5**

for individuals and \$25 for organizations. Youth under the age of 18 are free. Please send your checks, payable to CCSJ, to PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160.

Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@labyrinth.net.

Please contact any of the steering committee members to volunteer to help and to share your suggestions for our work or e-mail us at ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

Deadline for items to include in next Update will be January 31. Please send items to share with our membership to ccsjwv@hotmail.com.

If we can support your event or your issues in some way, please let us know, especially if you represent a member organization. We want to be a true coalition that unites groups and individuals interested in social justice, so please let us know how we can help and please send us information about your group to publicize to our membership.

III. NEWS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Caritas House

Caritas House is sponsoring its annual "Sweets for the Sweet" event on February 19th from 6-9 p.m. at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center. CARITAS is a non-profit agency that provides services to HIV/AIDS patients in the Morgantown area. "Sweets for the Sweet" is an annual fundraising event that includes sampling and voting on various desserts provided by local restaurants and bakeries, entertainment, and an extensive silent auction. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available from Brooke Thomas at brookethomas2002@yahoo.com.

WVU Center for Black Culture and Research (CBCR)

February is Africana History Month, so the following events are listed on the Africana History Month calendar. Please check the Center for Black Culture and Research web site at www.wvu.edu/~cbr or call the center at 293-7029 for further information.

February 14: Iota Phi Theta "Reflections of Romance Ball" (\$15, call 685-4873 for tickets and info), Levels Restaurant, 345 High St. 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

February 17: Black History Trivia Night (sponsored by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.), 111 Clark Hall, 7:00 pm

February 21: Presentation of Black Arts Morgantown High School Auditorium, 7:00 p.m.

February 27: High School Minority Law Day WVU Law School, 9:00 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

February 27: Talent Show (sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta), G-24 Eiesland Hall (WVU), 7:00 p.m.

The CBCR web site also explains the **West Virginia African American Voting Electorate (WVAAVE)** at www.wvu.edu/~cbr/waavehome.html. According to the web site,

“At a recent African American Summit convened in the U.S. Senate, representatives from West Virginia pointed out that there has never been an organized and sustained effort on the part of African Americans in the state to become more politically aware, astute and effective in addressing the needs and concerns of this population. Our

issues are similar to those of most West Virginians - we support job creation and employment opportunities, access to quality K-12 education and affordable healthcare options.

“We know that for some time, there has been civic and political apathy in segments of the African American community. What we must find out is why this is so, and then become engaged. Is apathy the result of feelings of powerlessness - we are but three percent of the state population - or is there a sheer unwillingness to become involved? In either case, we simply cannot afford to stay disconnected - particularly in the 2004 election cycle.

“The West Virginia African American Voting Electorate (WAAVE) is poised to mobilize African Americans in the state for political and social change. WAAVE's strategy is to work with existing organizations and networks to deliver information and resources to African Americans that allow this constituency to make informed electoral choices, and to compel political and economic decision makers to be accountable and responsive to the needs of this segment of the electorate.

“WAAVE will flow through each West Virginia county wherein African Americans dwell, conducting voter registration, disseminating information, eliciting ideas and feedback, and channeling their voices into the appropriate policy streams.

“For more information about WAAVE contact: Noelle Lee at (304) 685-5710.”

Morgantown NOW

NOW's next meeting is Sunday, February 8, at 4:30 p.m. in Barbara Evans Fleischauer's office - 618 Monongahela Building, 235 High Street.

NOW and FEM (Female Equality Movement) is organizing to attend the **march in support of reproductive rights** in Washington, D.C., on Sunday, April 25th. If you'd like information about going with the Morgantown group, please contact choicemarch@hotmail.com. Bus transportation will be \$40/person, and buses will leave the WVU Coliseum at 5:30 a.m.

WVU Center for Women's Studies

Dr. Ann Oberhauser, associate professor of geography, will present a Fireside Chat on “Globalizing Gender: Perspectives from the South” in the Mountainlair Monongahela Room at 3 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 11th**. Dr. Oberhauser will talk about some of the literature on gender and globalization with a focus on developing countries. The study of gender and globalization examines the inequalities that result from the increased integration of women into international production. Dr. Oberhauser will explore the spatial, social, and economic aspects of globalization in her talk on gender and international development. She will focus on the implications of globalization for gender relations and divisions of labor in and across regions such as southern Africa, Central America, and South Asia. Her research also examines local and international efforts to mobilize women and men as they actively engage in grassroots organizations to redress gender and economic inequalities. This presentation is free and open to the public.

Dr. Bei Wu, assistant professor of community medicine, will present a Fireside Chat on “**Cross-cultural Comparison of the Sociodemographic Profiles and Contributory Behavior of the Oldest in the U.S. and China**” on March 3rd at 4 p.m. in the Mountainlair Mountaineer Room. Dr. Wu's study revealed that U.S. respondents provided a greater range of contributions to anyone in the informal network of family, friends/neighbors. In terms of differences in types of contributions, acts of a "socio-emotional" nature were among

the most frequently provided in the U.S. sample, while the more frequently provided contributions in the Chinese sample related to practical or "instrumental" assistance. Sociodemographic differences between the samples, such as living arrangement, marital status, religious practices, and group affiliation, may account for some differences in patterns of contributory behaviors between the two study samples. This presentation is free and open to the public.

IV. UPCOMING EVENTS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Women's Day at the Legislature - February 17

The West Virginia Women's Commission sponsors this annual event, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Gaston Caperton State Training Center, State Capitol Complex, Building 7 in Charleston. Speakers (and their topics) will include Barbara Fleischauer (pay equity), Becky Cain (voting), Susan Subkoviak Gray (how to talk to legislators), Susan Hubbard (the legislative process), Chrissy Dunbar (osteoporosis), and Constance Harvey (breast cancer). The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito will be the luncheon keynote speaker. For more information and a registration form, go to www.wvdhhr.org/women/legislature.asp or call the commission at 558-0070. Registration is \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, including continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is due Monday, February 9th.

The women's commission is also working on an effort to increase the number of women registered to vote.

Public Policy Forum on Children's Issues - February 17 - and Children's Day at the Legislature - February 18

Sid Johnson, president and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, will be the keynote speaker for this February 17th forum at the Charleston House Holiday Inn, which is co-sponsored by the Coalition for West Virginia's Children and Prevent Child Abuse West Virginia. There will also be workshops on a variety of public policy issues. The forum organizers are applying for CEUs for social workers, nurses, and lawyers.

The agenda for Children's Day at the Legislature includes an overview of "hot topics at the Legislature, a legislative panel discussion, performances by youth, exhibits, and visits with legislators."

For more information, about the schedule and registration procedures for both events, contact www.preventchildabusewv.org/childrens_day/index.html.

Financial support for these events is provided by the Black Diamond Girl Scout Council, Benedum Foundation, Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sisters of Saint Joseph Charitable Trust, West Virginia Children's Justice Task Force, West Virginia Community Voices (a project of W.K. Kellogg Foundation), West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council.

Vagina Monologues - February 20-22

WVU's FEM will be sponsoring its third annual production of "Vagina Monologues" this year on February 20th at 7 p.m., February 21st at 7 p.m., and February 22nd at 2 p.m. Presentations will be in G24 Eiesland Hall at WVU. To order tickets, email Roxana Bailey at rbailey5@mix.wvu.edu, giving your name, the number of tickets you need, and the day you wish to attend. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and \$5 with a WVU student I.D. This

has become a very popular event, so it is best to order tickets in advance. Proceeds from the productions will go to the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center and Take Back the Night.

Morgantown High School African American Awareness Night - February 21 - 7 p.m.

The Morgantown High School African American Awareness Club is sponsoring a family entertainment night for everyone to come together to celebrate black artistry. The title of the event is "Presentation of Black Arts," and this will be a fundraising event for the club, with donations accepted at the door in lieu of admission charges. According to Terrill Mitchell, club representative, the club wants "to give a show where different groups, clubs, organizations, etc. come together and present different showcases displaying the black culture and its views. (For example: Dancing, Singing, Poetry Reading, etc.)."

The club's goal "is to display and maintain a positive image in our schools and our community," and the club is open to everyone.

For further information, please contact Anna Fleming, the club sponsor, at amfleming@adelphia.net.

LaDonna Harris to visit WVU - February 24-26

LaDonna Harris, a Commanche social activist, will be visiting WVU February 24-26 as the Native American Studies Program's resident. She will give a public lecture on Wednesday evening, February 25th. Further details will be provided as they are available. According to the National Women's History Project, "Since 1970, she has served as the president of Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO), a national multi-tribal organization devoted to developing the economic opportunities and resources of American Indians throughout the United States."

Mom's Turn to Learn Day - March 29

The WVU Council for Women's Concerns will be sponsoring the 3rd Mom's Turn to Learn Day on Monday, March 29th at the Morgantown Mall. This is an opportunity for women to women to learn about opportunities at WVU to continue their education. Watch for further publicity as plans develop and please encourage your co-workers, neighbors, and friends to attend. Marshall University will have similar activities that day, and we hope, so will those at other state colleges. The West Virginia branch of the American Association of University Women is supporting this event this year.

V. OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vote for Children Project Underway

Thanks to Mary Rehmann for providing information about the Vote for Children effort, which the coalition for West Virginia Children describes as "an exciting effort to educate West Virginia voters on where the candidates stand on children's issues." The West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and other statewide groups are involved in this project which will help educate voters on candidates' views. The project will not rate or endorse candidates.

Some of the questions for gubernatorial candidates are "What plans do you have to help grow businesses in West Virginia that provide jobs with wages and benefits sufficient to support a family?" and "If elected, what will you do to promote affordable, high quality child care in West Virginia?" Questions for other candidates will follow the

primaries in May. Organizations can sign up at any time to assist with this survey. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mary Rehmann at rehmannlaw@labyrinth.net.or call her at 296-1322.

Coalition for West Virginia Women Supporting Pay Equity

The Coalition for West Virginia Women is distributing a petition to Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer in support of \$350,000 in the state budget for the Equal Pay Commission to continue the work of adjusting salaries of state employees. Over 1800 West Virginia State employees in 24 job categories (70 percent are within the Department of Health and Human Resources alone) will be affected by this increase in pay. Each one of the state employees affected will receive a letter explaining what is being done and how they can help by contacting their representative and attending the state lobby day to speak on behalf of equal pay. To receive a copy of the petition and fact sheet, please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu. To get on the mailing list for the coalition, please contact Juliana Serafin at serafijg@dow.com.

CCSJ Steering Committee 2003-2004

Tim Hairston (Monongalia-Preston Labor Council AFL-CIO), President. Al Anderson, Vice President. Barb Howe (WVU Center for Women's Studies), Secretary. Gregory Wagner, Treasurer. Mike Attfield. Judy Cohen. Lourdes Cottingham (Equality for All Americans). Suzanne Gosden. Kris Hash. Jacqueline Moseley. Shelly Barrick Parsons (Presbyterian campus ministry). Michael Sharley. Deb Strouse (WV Center for Dispute Resolution).