

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

Please send us an email address if you have one so that we may save postage. Thanks!

Update: 8 July 2004

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Monday, August 30, 7 p.m. Place to be announced. Please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

Annual Meeting & Organization Fair Set for Tuesday, September 21 (International Peace Day)

As part of its annual meeting, the Community Coalition for Social Justice is sponsoring an economic and social justice organizations' fair on September 21, 2004 at First Presbyterian Church.

The vision for this event is:

- To gather organizations working to promote social and economic justice in the areas in and around Morgantown
- To give space for informal networking among organizations with similar aims
- To raise awareness about the groups working towards social and economic justice in the area through organizational displays
- To provide an opportunity for the community at-large to come to the fair to learn about and to connect with the organizations working for justice in the community

TO REGISTER YOUR GROUP:

Please send your registration by Tuesday, September 7, 2004 to:

ccsjwv@hotmail.com, or CCSJ Annual Meeting-Fair Registration, PO Box 160, Morgantown WV 26507, or call Shelly Barrick Parsons, 292-4061

REGISTRATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- 1 NAME OF ORGANIZATION
- 2 NAME OF CONTACT PERSON(S)
- 3 EMAIL, PHONE, ADDRESS OF CONTACT PERSON
- 4 EMAIL, PHONE, WEB, ETC OF ORGANIZATION
- 5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR GROUP (SUMMARY OF MISSION AND GOALS, NO MORE THAN 1 PARAGRAPH) (WILL BE USED FOR PUBLICITY)

The fair is open both to CCSJ member organizations and to nonmember organizations. This is a great (and free!) way to publicize your group to the community, and to find out about resources in other groups. The gym at First Presbyterian Church will be accessible starting at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 21 to set up organization's displays. For more information on the Community Coalition for Social Justice and its members, log-on: <http://www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/>

Steering Committee Members Needed!

If you are interested in being more involved in CCSJ, please contact Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net.

Thanks, Greg!

Many thanks to Greg Wagner, who has been our treasurer since we started CCSJ. He has had to resign this position because he is moving to Boston.

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. We use your money to purchase books for local schools, for instance. **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 July 30. 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

Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living to Hold Housing Forum July 13th

The NWVCIL is inviting “all professionals in the housing industry to participate in our housing forum” to discuss barriers that housing consumers face “when searching for safe, affordable and accessible housing throughout the state.” The group is also seeking “assistance in developing strategies on how to overcome these obstacles.” The meeting will be on Tuesday, the 13th, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Jerry West Center at the WVU Coliseum. If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Lisa Bird or Robin Gilmore at 800-834-6408. NWVCIL asks that you request alternate formats or interpreters in advance of the meeting.

Equality for All Americans is Meeting Again

Al Anderson, CCSJ vice president, reports that Equality for All Americans has resumed its meetings. For further information about this group, please contact CCSJ steering committee member Lou Cottingham at blessedin2003@adelphia.net or Al at 328-5002.

WVU Center for Women’s Studies Upcoming Events

October 13-15 - Women and Creativity 2004: Examining the Past/Composing the Future - The third decennial women and creativity conference combined with Sixth Women’s Studies Residency in Honor of Judith Gold Stitzel will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Morgantown and the WVU Creative Arts Center. The keynote speaker will be composer Libby Larsen on Wednesday, October 13, and there will be WVU Symphony Orchestra concert on October 14, featuring the work of women composers, including Larsen. For more information and registration information, please see www.as.wvu.edu/wmst/wvuwomenandcreativity.htm. The full program will be posted there soon.

Co-sponsors are the Center for Women's Studies, College of Creative Arts, and WVU Council for Women's Concerns, with assistance from Arts Monongahela, Inc., the Convention and Visitors Bureau, WVU Department of English, and Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. This project is being presented with financial assistance from The West Virginia Humanities Council, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this conference do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

IV. LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

WV Foundation for Equality Meeting on July 10th in Morgantown

The West Virginia Foundation for Equality will hold a meeting on Saturday, July 10th, at 11 a.m. in the Morgantown Public Library at 373 Spruce Street to discuss marriage equality in West Virginia.

According to Sara Bird, likely agenda items are:

“(1) Strategy and Organizing: Getting North Central WV Mobilized!!

(2) Forming Morgantown and Fairmont/Clarksburg chapters of the WV Foundation for Equality!!

(3) Creating a united front among campus groups throughout the state!!

(4) Marriage Equality Rally in Morgantown in the Fall!!

(5) Etc.!!

“For those who can attend and want to get serious about fighting for marriage equality in West Virginia, please attend with ideas for strategy, organizing, mobilizing, etc!!!! Soon we'll have a Morgantown Foundation for Equality listserv and website perhaps!!!!” Anyone who cannot attend but is interested in the group is welcome to contact Sara at sarapearlbird@hotmail.com.

For more information on West Virginia Marriage Equality, please go to www.wvmarriageequality.org, where you'll find a family registry, listserv signup, letters to the editor, and list of supportive clergy.

West Virginia National Organization for Women Conference is July 10th in Charleston

Following the historic March for Women's Lives, NOW is working harder than ever to make sure that the movement for women's reproductive freedom and health, political equality, right to health and child care, equal opportunity, etc. continues to go strong! The commitment to continue the fight for women's economic and political equality cannot end with the March on Washington—we need to continue to show the media and politicians that we care about women's lives!

The NOW Chapter Development Office in Washington, D.C., is excited to help with the organization of a strong NOW Chapter in West Virginia, beginning with a NOW Conference that will take place on Saturday, July 10th, in Charleston in which State Representatives to NOW will be elected, and a forum will be put in place to discuss, plan, and organize. For further information about the conference, please contact Elizabeth Harless at e.harless@verizon.net or Christina Juhasz-Wood, Chapter Intern for the National Organization for Women in Washington, D.C., at (202)-628-8669 or chapinfo@now.org. The Morgantown NOW chapter is a member organization of CCSJ.

July 20th meeting to discuss whether Morgantown could be PATRIOT Act-Free

The local group formerly known as Dean for America (now Democracy for America) just resurrected the Morgantown chapter of the ACLU, and, according to Leah Rye, the group's treasurer, "We are trying to garner the support of several local organizations to help us make Morgantown a PATRIOT Act-Free zone, like Huntington did last Fall." The CCSJ steering committee has agreed to endorse this effort.

There will be a PATRIOT Act-Free zone meeting will be the Mountaineer Mall Community Room **at 7 pm on July 20th** so that representatives from each local organization that is willing to assist can discuss their plans. To get there, park on the left side of Elder-Beerman and go in the mall door between Elder-Beerman and what used to be Montgomery Ward. Mike Sharley will be representing CCSJ. For further information, please contact Leah at squamishforever@yahoo.com or by cell phone at (304) 692-0981.

Leah reports that "Many local Huntington organizations lent support to the passage of their city's ordinance. "In addition to the ACLU of West Virginia, the local chapters of the NRA, NAACP, League of Women Voters and the Director of the Cabell County Library backed this ordinance" (ACLU press release). Thus far, 191 municipalities, counties and three states have made their jurisdictions "PATRIOT Act-Free" zones.

"The ACLU views the PATRIOT Act as a violation of many of our basic civil liberties. If you would like to help us make Morgantown a Free Zone, please contact me. We ask for no monetary contribution, only for your support as a non-partisan sponsor to help us put an ordinance through city council.

"Some resources you may be interested in are:

ACLU-WV press release on Huntington's ordinance: http://www.aclu-wv.org/newsroom/pressreleases/10_14_03.htm

Text of Huntington's ordinance: <http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=14118&c=207>

ACLU national website: <http://www.aclu.org>

ACLU-WV website (ACLU in the state of WV): <http://www.aclu-wv.org>

Information and links regarding the USA PATRIOT Act:

<http://www.aclu.org/SafeandFree/SafeandFree.cfm?ID=12126&c=207>

National Association of Social Workers West Virginia Chapter Survey of WV Dept of Health & Human Resources

There's an online survey available through July 24th where you can give your opinion about the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. It takes about 8 minutes to complete. The surveyor, the National Association of Social Workers West Virginia Chapter, says your responses and information will be kept confidential. The more opinions they get, the better. If you're interested, please visit: www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=68221

SURVEY INSTRUCTIONS:

To participate you will need to 'purchase' (at no charge) access to the survey by entering the number 1 in the 'order' box, and then respond to the questions that follow. Submit your responses by clicking 'continue'. You will then be asked for name and contact information - NASW will hold these in the strictest confidence! Click 'continue' again to send your responses. You will receive a message from the Acteva system confirming that your responses were submitted.

Please disregard any screen messages regarding charges, cancellations or refunds. These do not apply, as the online survey is completely free of charge.

Note: Your responses to this survey are confidential. Our secure server will restrict access to identifying information.

From R. Larry Beckett, president- elect of the chapter, "Thank you for your participation! This is an opportunity to give input for meaningful change." If you have questions, please contact Mr. Beckett NASWWV@aol.com or go to the chapter's web site at www.NASWWV.org.

West Virginia Writer Seeks Information on Gay and Lesbian Community in State

Karen Phelan, a West Virginia writer living in Martinsburg, is doing research on the gay and lesbian communities in the state and is searching for people she can interview and do profiles on (names can be withheld if so desired) for an article she is doing. She notes that "This will be a POSITIVE article on the community" and that "I believe the rural gay community . . . should be heard I want to see how they differ from the gay communities in the bigger cities who have access to so many more channels of visibility -- and also acceptance." If you are interested in assisting her on this project, please email her at Kphelan101@aol.com or call her directly at 304-279-2073. There is no deadline.

WVU Planning Events to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education

Look for a series of events during the next academic year that will mark this historic anniversary. On Monday evening, October 18th, for instance, as part of WVU's Diversity Week, Dr. Ancella Bickley and Dr. Rita Wicks-Nelson will give a presentation on "Desegregation of Schools as a Result of Brown v. Board of Education." There are plans for a web site to announce all these events.

V. NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thanks to Kris Hash for passing on the following item: A research team at UC-Santa Barbara is looking at the counseling experiences of LGBTs. LGBT persons who have received counseling services in the past 6 months are eligible and will receive \$25 for a phone interview. For more info, please email rgorchev@education.ucsb.edu or call 805-893-4575.

Election Law Trainings on the Web for Nonprofits

Thanks to Emily Spielier for passing on this message from Alicia Holmes of the Alliance for Justice:

Want to know what your 501(c)(3) organizations can do in an election year but don't have time to attend a training outside of the office? Sit at your desktop in your office or home and join the Alliance for Justice for a virtual election law training. This one-hour web-based training will cover the rules for election-related candidate debates and forums.

TWO DATES ARE AVAILABLE: Monday, July 19 at 2 p.m. EDT or Monday, July 26 at 2 p.m. EDT

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO PARTICIPATE: You will need a computer with internet access and working computer speakers in order to participate. Questions will be taken through an online chat mechanism, but not through voice, so you do not need a microphone. Once you've registered, we'll email instructions on how to log in to the training.

COST & REGISTRATION: Registration is \$30. To register, please click on or paste in this link:
www.afj.org/nonprofit/workshops_events/index.html

Questions? Regarding technology, please contact Tim Mooney at tmooney@afj.org; regarding registration, contact Ann Allegra at aallegra@afj.org. Or call us at 202/822-6070.

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. Mike Atfield. 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).