

**Community Coalition for Social Justice
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www.geocities.com/ccsjwv/index.html**

Update: 23 July 2005

Summer is a slow time for social justice in Morgantown, it seems, so there was not enough news for a June Update.

I. CCSJ PROJECTS

Next Steering Committee Meeting - Wednesday, August 3, 7:00 p.m., Place to be announced. Please contact our president, Tim Hairston, at questz1@adelphia.net if you have issues for the steering committee to consider.

County Human Rights Commission

State legislation defining the state human rights commission includes the provision that “The legislative body of a political subdivision may, by ordinance or resolution, authorize the establishment or membership in and support of a local human rights commission. The number and qualifications of the members of any local commission and their terms and method of appointment or removal shall be such as may be determined and agreed upon by the legislative body, except that no such member shall hold office in any political party.” The only human rights commissions in the state now seem to be those in Beckley, Charleston, Huntington, Morgantown, Weirton, and Wheeling.

If you are interested in exploring this idea for Monongalia County, please contact Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu, or Al Anderson at 328-5002. We would have to show a need for such a group, as well as a structure, how this would work with the state human rights commission, etc. - including how a government body would differ from a not-for-profit group like CCSJ.

Library Books Update

We are updating our brochure to show which books that we have purchased over the years are now available at all four libraries of the Morgantown Public Library System: the main library on Spruce Street, as well as the Cheat Area, Clinton District, and Clay-Battelle public libraries. We would like to distribute the brochure as widely as possible, including to the area settlement houses, day care centers, churches and the synagogue, and agencies like Stepping Stones. We have funds through our Appalachian Community Fund grant to print the brochure, so please send Barb Howe ideas on how to get these to the best possible places, in addition to being at the libraries.

The Morgantown City Council has again generously agreed to provide \$1000 for this fiscal year to purchase books for the Morgantown Public Library. The members of the WVU Native American Studies Program have developed a list for us that we will turn over to the public library to purchase.

Annual Meeting Plans

We would like to hold our annual meeting during the 3rd or 4th week of September and would like to do another “social justice organizations fair,” as we did last year. More details will be available in a future Update., but please contact Barb Howe if you’d like to help organize this.

Steering Committee Membership

If you would like to be on the CCSJ steering committee, please contact Tim Hairston at questz1@adelphia.net.

II. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES AND IDEAS!

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 August 20. 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. MEMBER ORGANIZATION NEWS

WVU-ACE

The legislative agenda for WVU-ACE in 2005 included “1. Full funding of the Classified Salary Schedule; 2. Containment of PEIA costs; 3. Monitoring of SB603-regarding flexibility and deregulation; 4. Longevity funding for WVU faculty.”

WVU-ACE is an affiliate of the West Virginia Education Association and National Education Association. All employees are welcome to join. Membership benefits include insurance programs, loan and mortgage programs, and special discount programs.

The next executive board meetings are August 1 and September 5. There will be an open house on September 28.

For more information, contact WVU-ACE at 1137 VanVoorhis Rd, Suite 6, Morgantown 26505 or call 598-3900.

MON-PRESTON LABOR COUNCIL

The Mon-Preston Labor Council is sponsoring a 70th birthday party for Social Security. This will be held on Sunday, August 14, from 2-4 p.m. at the Westover Senior Center, which is the lower level of the Westover City Hall building on Dupont Road. All are welcome.

MORGANTOWN NOW

NOW president Jessi Kalvitis has provided the following information. For more details, please contact her at hagdinvincible@yahoo.com.

“The Morgantown NOW chapter will hold officer elections on Monday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m., in the Training Room of the Public Safety Building (on the corner of Spruce and Walnut streets). If you would like to run for an officer position, please a) make sure your membership with national NOW is up to date (and this chapter specified with chapter code WV 0205), and b) you attend the August 15th meeting.

“The Morgantown N.O.W. summer picnic will be on Friday, August 26th, at Barbara Fleischauer's home. As that date is also the 85th anniversary of women gaining suffrage in the U.S., we're planning to invite several other local women's organizations (e.g. AAUW, League of Women Voters, Business & Professional Women) and combine

this event with the Center for Women's Studies' annual New Women Faculty Dinner. The picnic will be a potluck, so please plan to bring a covered dish or other necessary items (an updated list of what's still needed will be circulated closer to that date).

“Please go to the national NOW site at www.now.org for more information on John Roberts's record and views, and please let our senators know your opinions on the matter.”

IV. LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL NEWS

PLANNED PARENTHOOD DISCUSSIONS UNDERWAY IN MORGANTOWN

Paul Brown is leading discussions about a possible Planned Parenthood presence in Morgantown. If you would like more information or wish to be added to his update list, please email him at pbrown@clockticking.com. A representative from the southeast region of Planned Parenthood came to Morgantown a few weeks ago to let us know some of what would be involved in such an effort. It will take a lot of work and a lot of money if it is to happen, so now is the time to get involved if this interests you.

WEST VIRGINIA RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

The West Virginia Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (WV RCRC) has a new web site at www.geocities.com/wvrcrc/. WV RCRC defines itself as a “statewide group of clergy and laity from diverse religious traditions who believe that a woman should be free to make reproductive health choices according to her own conscience and faith.” For more information on WV RCRC, please email wvrcrc@yahoo.com.

WVU DIVERSITY WEEK DATES SET

WVU's Diversity Week will be the week of October 17. While the calendar is not yet finalized, the annual Women of Color luncheon will be October 19, beginning at 11:30 a.m. in the WVU Mountainlair Ballrooms. The speaker will be Dr. Ancella R. Bickley, retired vice president for academic affairs at West Virginia State College and an expert on the history of African-Americans in West Virginia. She will speak on Memphis Tennessee Garrison, a NAACP organizer from southern West Virginia. For further information, please contact Roz Becker at rebroz@adelphia.net.

FRIENDS OF THE MOUNTAINS RALLY IN CHARLESTON

West Virginians opposing mountaintop removal are rallying in Charleston at the capitol circle on the north side of the state capitol on Saturday, July 30, at noon. For more information, call 304-522-0246 or go to www.ohvec.org. According to the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition web site, “Friends of the Mountains is a coalition of groups and individuals committed to ending mountaintop removal. Members include Coal River Mountain Watch, Coalfield Sustainability Project, Keepers of the Mountains Foundation, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, West Virginia Sierra Club and West Virginia Rivers Coalition.”

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE STUDY UNDERWAY

The National Partnership for Women & Families in Washington, D.C., has distributed the following request for assistance:

“U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney is writing a book, *A Woman's Guide to Making a Difference*, to be published in 2006. It will have a section on women in the workplace which will discuss the importance of family and medical leave. Please see the following message from Representative Maloney's research assistant regarding the book & the need for personal stories:

We are compiling case studies, and are in need of personal accounts of working women who have been forced by lack of leave, or lack of paid leave, to make very difficult choices, or to sustain economic losses. For example, an account could be a woman (or family) who had been middle class but was forced into poverty (temporarily or permanently), or any other situation in which a woman was underserved by the current system. If you know of a woman or family whose story might serve as a case study for the book, and who might be interested in speaking with us, please contact Rep. Maloney's research assistant, Laura Welch, via email, at lghocelot@aol.com.

For further information, please call 202-986-2600 or go to www.nationalpartnership.org or www.paidleave.org

WOMEN OF APPALACHIA CONFERENCE PROPOSALS DUE AUGUST 12.

The Ohio University-Zanesville conference on Women of Appalachia: Their Heritage and Accomplishments announces the call for proposals for its seventh annual conference, which will take place October 28-29 at the Ohio University-Zanesville campus. This is a highly interdisciplinary, and very informal, conference of men and women interested in all aspects of the lives of women in Appalachia. Continuing education units are available for social workers and counselors. You do not have to present a paper to attend the conference. For further information, go to www.zanesville.ohiou.edu/ce/wac.

CCSJ Steering Committee 2004-2005

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