



**Community Coalition for Social Justice**  
**PO Box 160**  
**Morgantown, WV 26507-0160**  
**ccsjwv@hotmail.com**  
**www.ccsjwv.org**

**UPDATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Community Coalition for Social Justice is a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to promoting the principles of social, environmental, and economic justice and respect for all persons. We oppose discrimination and hate-motivated violence in Morgantown and surrounding communities.

**CONTACT US:** Please send your web site suggestions to Mike Attfield at attfield@comcast.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. Please send items to share with our membership to Barb Howe at barbara.howe@mail.wvu.edu.

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR DUES** - \$10 for individuals and \$25 for organizations – to CCSJ, PO Box 160, Morgantown, WV 26507-0160. You can join or donate by credit card via PayPal on our web site.

**February CCSJ Meeting is February 15th at 7:30 p.m. featuring Joan C. Browning as speaker.**

Joan C. Browning will be the speaker at the February Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) Zoom meeting on February 15th at 7:30 p.m. The title of her talk is "Hell of a Disturbance." This is a quote from the letters she wrote while in Albany, Georgia, as the sole white woman jailed on that December 1961 freedom ride. Joan now lives in southern West Virginia and continues her crusade for civil rights. All are welcome to join the meeting.

Here is the Zoom information:

TOPIC: COMMUNITY COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FEBRUARY MEETING  
TIME: FEBRUARY 15, 2022, 7:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82944805693?pwd=QmW1SkLTRGpCMHE4OVBBT2JGbkTVZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82944805693?pwd=QmW1SkLTRGpCMHE4OVBBT2JGbkTVZz09)

MEETING ID: 829 4480 5693, PASSCODE: 322484

ONE TAP MOBILE: +16468769923, 82944805693#, \*322484# US (NEW YORK)

+13017158592, 82944805693#, \*322484# US (WASHINGTON DC)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION: +1 646 876 9923 US (NEW YORK), +1 301 715 8592 US (WASHINGTON DC)  
+1 312 626 6799 US (CHICAGO), +1 669 900 6833 US (SAN JOSE)

MEETING ID: 829 4480 5693, PASSCODE: 322484

FIND YOUR LOCAL NUMBER: [HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/KCGIK6UPDT](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcgik6updt)

**CCSJ SUPPORTS WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY:** We are pleased to add our name and financial support to the full-page ad being prepared for the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* addressing legislation introduced in the state legislature that will prohibit teaching “divisive” topics in our K-12 schools and higher education. See below for more on the Coalition and to see how you can help.



**CCSJ GETS \$4,000 FROM FIRSTENERGY FOUNDATION FOR PROJECT WITH THE SHACK NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:** Thanks to the cooperation of Libby Durr,

regional external affairs officer for FirstEnergy, we have received

\$4,000 for a “Read Aloud” Project with The Shack Neighborhood House. The project is to work with The Shack in Monongalia County in its outreach to students attending Eastwood, Mason Dixon, Mylan Park, and Ridgedale elementary schools to improve the quality of life in our community by promoting literacy and awareness of social justice issues while also promoting education to prepare students for work in the future. The Shack currently offers before-school and/or after-school care at three of these schools and is working on making that available for Eastwood students at Morgantown’s Woodburn Community Center.

We will be purchasing sets of books and worksheets focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion that are appropriate to the students in grades pre-kindergarten to fifth grade (ages 4-11) at each school. Members of the Community Coalition for Social Justice will then read with the children and discuss the books with them. We will collaborate with, Shawnda Cook, the director of the Shack, and her staff to choose books. We want the children to have items to take home with them so that they may continue to enjoy and learn from them after one session.



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., DAY 2022 THEME WAS “RESPECT”:** Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Sixteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration on January 17th. CCSJ and Main Street Morgantown co-sponsored this virtual event with support from the West Virginia University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Morgantown Mayor Jenny Selin welcomed everyone, and the City of Morgantown provided financial support.

Our theme was “Respect.” We thank Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the WVU Native American Studies Program; Pete Giacobbi, vice president of the Morgantown Chapter of the National Organization for Women; Brad Grimes, program coordinator of the WVU LGBTQ+ Center; Rabbi Joe Hample of Tree of Life Congregation; Anitra Hamilton, president of the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP; Dr. Tim Nelms of the Wild and Wonderful Humanists; and Marly Ynigues, chair of the Morgantown/Monongalia League of Women Voters Social Justice Committee, for their thoughtful and wide-ranging comments on our theme.

Music is important to our celebration. Al Anderson was our soloist. Jennifer Connoley led Mrs. Kimble’s Cheat Lake Elementary School second graders and Mrs. Kennison’s fourth graders in their songs.

Alexandra Jackson conducted performances by Mylan Park third graders from Mrs. Smith's and Mrs. Snyder's classes. Jen Mattern conducted the North Elementary School choir. The WVU Paul Robeson Mahalia Jackson Gospel Choir, conducted by Rev. Shirley Robinson and Dr. Alton Merrell, sang the black national anthem, "Lift Every Voice." We regretted that the WVU Chamber Singers were unable to participate because of COVID-19 problems.

We appreciate the support of the NAACP. Dr. Florita Stubbs Montgomery presented "Let's Respect Dr. King's Words With Actions." She provided an insightful critique of the dangers of teaching history that does not include everyone. Marly Ynigues also streamed our event on the branch's Facebook page.

Finally, we thank Barb Watkins, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, for her assistance with publicity, and the OLLI staff: Diane Cale, Jascenna Haislett, and Michelle Klishis, who managed all the technology.

**A YouTube version of all the program, minus the local school choirs and Boston Children's Choir, is available at <https://www.ccsjwv.org/videos/ccsj-news/mlk2022.mp4>.**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!** Just look for "Community Coalition for Social Justice" under "Groups" and become our friend. Thanks to Mike Sharley for being our group "leader."

### LOCAL NEWS



**MORGANTOWN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION:** The next regular meeting will be Thursday, **February 17th** at 6:30 p.m. You can get contact information for the commission, including information on filing complaint forms at [www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/272/Human-Rights-Commission).

You can get copies of the agendas and minutes for the commission meetings at [www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/government/commissions/human-rights-commission/human-rights-commission-agenda-minutes/).

You can find a calendar of annual human rights observances at <https://www.morgantownwv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/396/Calendar-of-Annual-Human-Rights-Observances-PDF>

### FEBRUARY

Black History Month – Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.

**February 1-7:** World Interfaith Harmony Week

**February 14:** Race Relations Day – A day designated by the National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.

**February 15:** Susan B. Anthony Day - Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.

**February 20:** World Day of Social Justice – Recognition of the imperative for tackling issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MORGANTOWN-MONONGALIA COUNTY (LWV-MM):** The League will be planning candidate forums to take place in late March or early April. If anyone would like to participate in planning/generating questions for the candidates, the League is looking for people to help. Interested volunteers can email [lwvmorgantown@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmorgantown@gmail.com).

Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LWVMM](http://www.facebook.com/LWVMM) and contact them by email at [lwvmorgantown@gmail.com](mailto:lwvmorgantown@gmail.com). You can join the League of Women Voters at [tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm](http://tinyurl.com/join-lwvmm).



**MORGANTOWN NOW CHAPTER:** The next meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Follow this group on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownNow/). Details and agenda are available through the weekly newsletter or email at [morgantownnow@gmail.com](mailto:morgantownnow@gmail.com).



**MORGANTOWN-KINGWOOD BRANCH OF THE NAACP MEETS FEBRUARY 15TH:** This meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact the NAACP at [3241naacp@gmail.com](mailto:3241naacp@gmail.com) for more information and to learn how to participate.

Follow the NAACP on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/naacp3241/?ref=page_internal).



**MORGANTOWN CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN-MENNONITE:** Follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634](http://www.facebook.com/Morgantown-Church-of-the-Brethren-Mennonite-93776113634) or at [www.morgantowncob.org](http://www.morgantowncob.org). Sunday services are held at 10:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom, with the link available at [www.morgantowncob.org](http://www.morgantowncob.org). “We ask that everyone wear a mask inside the building.”



**UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF MORGANTOWN FEBRUARY PROGRAMS:** These programs will be held via ZOOM (and locally as soon as reasonable). For more information, please go to [www.uufmwv.org/](http://www.uufmwv.org/). The Zoom door opens at 10:45 a.m.

**February 6:** “Relating Plagues & Medieval Religion to Modern Society.” Video presentation by Prof. David Nirenberg, Medieval History Scholar and new Director of The Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, NJ).

**February 13:** “The Lincoln Project” seeks to hold government leaders to their oath of office. Founded in 2019 by Steve Schmidt, George Conway, *et al.* If these concerns extend to West Virginia, what can be done?

**February 20:** “The Life & Times of Lewis H. Latimer (1848 - 1928).” Latimer’s parents were slaves, yet he became an outstanding draftsman, inventor and Unitarian. He held 7 significant patents, some working with Thomas Edison.

**February 27:** “Our 3rd Principle: Acceptance of One Another and Encouragement to Spiritual Growth” - presented by Michael Siciliano, V.P. and Community Minister, UUFMWV.org ~ Unitarian Universalist congregations together affirm and promote seven Principles. We also share a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from many sources. The seven Principles and six Sources of the Unitarian Universalist Association grew out of the grassroots of our communities, were affirmed democratically, and are part of who we are.

**Contact information:** UUFMWV, P.O. Box 4109, Morgantown, WV 26504. President, Duane Nichols; V.P. Michael Siciliano; Secretary, Tim Nelms; Treasurer, Denny Houseknecht.

**PFLAG:** The closest chapter now is in Fairmont, with information available at [www.pflagfairmont.org](http://www.pflagfairmont.org). According to its website, “PFLAG Fairmont meets each month, usually on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm on the 2nd floor of the Ruth Ann Musick Library on the campus of Fairmont State University.”

**MORGANTOWN HUMANISTS:** This is “An American Humanists Association chapter; science, reason, experience and compassion guide our attempt to understand and improve our world.... consider joining us !!” For information, go to [www.facebook.com/groups/855227111328432](http://www.facebook.com/groups/855227111328432).

There is an important day coming up: February 12: Darwin Day.



**DISMANTLING RACISM TOGETHER FEBRUARY MEETING.:** “Dismantling Racism Together is a WV group that meets monthly. We seek to educate and motivate citizens and organizations so they can collaborate to advocate for change.

“Join us for our monthly meeting, **Monday, February 21st, at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss important legislative updates, including The Crown Act and the so- called “Anti-Racism” Act. On Zoom at [bit.ly/DRTMonthlyProgram](http://bit.ly/DRTMonthlyProgram).”



**MORGANTOWN PRIDE RAISING TRANS KIDS IS FEBRUARY 19TH FROM 2:00 -3:30 P.M.:** The Raising Trans Kids Community Group is for West Virginia parents, guardians, and families who are raising transgender or gender diverse kids (of any age), or have kids who might be transgender or gender diverse.

For more information, go to [www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page\\_internal](http://www.facebook.com/MorgantownWVPride/?ref=page_internal) or [www.morgantownwvpride.org](http://www.morgantownwvpride.org). Morgantown Pride has an Instagram page at [www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en](http://www.instagram.com/morgantownwvpride/?hl=en).

Future “Raising Trans Kids” programs will be on March 19th and April 9th, also from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

**MORGANTOWN CIVILIAN POLICE REVIEW AND ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE:** At “press time,” the Morgantown city attorney has responded to the draft order prepared by the attorney for the Fraternal Order of Police in regard to Judge Tucker's decision at the December 16th hearing to enjoin the ordinance. We are still waiting for a final decision from Judge Tucker as to the scope of the order. The ordinance has a severability clause, stating that, if any part is deemed invalid, the rest of the ordinance would still stand. We do not yet know if the City of Morgantown will appeal the decision.



**WVU LIBRARIES’ FOOD JUSTICE IN APPALACHIA EXHIBIT:** This exhibit is available in the WVU Downtown Campus Library through June 2022. To see an online exhibit and the presentations at the exhibit opening in October, go to [exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/exhibits/food-justice-in-appalachia](http://exhibits.lib.wvu.edu/exhibits/food-justice-in-appalachia).



**WVU LGBTQ+ CENTER:** The Center has an active program of events, including two to get students involved in the legislative process:

**February 3rd - Legislative Updates with the LGBTQ+ Center and ACLU West Virginia:** This is an “insider’s perspective via an interactive Zoom session led by ACLU West Virginia’s Mollie Kennedy” from 6:00 to 7:00

p.m. to discuss legislation being considered in the West Virginia Legislature that could impact the state’s LGBTQ+ community if passed.

**February 4th: Brunch and Legislator Letter Writing:** Gather from noon to 2:00 p.m. to write letters to legislators about issues you care about.

Go to the Center’s website at [lgbtq.wvu.edu/events](http://lgbtq.wvu.edu/events) to join the Center’s website and/or register for events. You can follow the Center on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter/](http://www.facebook.com/WVULGBTQCenter/)



**WVU CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE AND RESEARCH SISTERHOOD**

**COALITION EVENTS:** The Facebook page for the Center for Black Culture and Research announces that, “We, along

with @diversitywvu, @wvu womensresourcecenter, Women’s Leadership Initiative, @wgstwvu, Faculty Justice Network and Faculty Senate, are so excited to revitalize this initiative.

“While we encourage everyone to come learn, socialize and build community — regardless of gender-identity or race — this initiative aims to celebrate support and uplift Black women and femmes across WVU’s campus, and the broader West Virginia community. We also aim to educate the broader campus community about the history, experiences and issues specific to Black women and femmes!”

West Virginia University

**Sisterhood Coalition**

**A CONVERSATION WITH FEMINISTA JONES:**

Black Feminism and Embracing Sisterhood



Thursday, February 24th at 6 PM

Visit [cbc.wvu.edu/initiatives](https://cbc.wvu.edu/initiatives) for Zoom link.

West Virginia University

**Sisterhood Coalition**

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:**

**A PANEL DISCUSSION HONORING THE BLACK FEMINIST STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND EQUITY**

Tuesday, March 8th at 7PM

Visit [cbc.wvu.edu/initiatives](https://cbc.wvu.edu/initiatives) for Zoom link.



**WVU DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND LINGUISTICS SPONSORS "BELONGING! HOW DOES INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING FOSTER INCLUSION?" ON FEBRUARY 7TH:** This Zoom

event will be at 3:00 p.m.

During this event, representatives of different minorities who have taken classes in WVU's Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics will talk about what it is like to belong to a minority group at the university, and to what extent their experiences as students of world languages have given them insights into valuing cultural differences and increasing intercultural understanding.

The registration link to get the Zoom link is: [wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluf-ygqj0uH9EvV6-rtXxaR8Vw1bJAFELb](https://wvu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJluf-ygqj0uH9EvV6-rtXxaR8Vw1bJAFELb).

The above link only works if you have a WVU email address. If you wish to attend and do not have a WVU email, please email Hilary Woodrum at [hwoodrum@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:hwoodrum@mail.wvu.edu) to be added to the registration list.

### STATE-WIDE AND AREA EVENTS



**West Virginia Legislature Is In Session:** The legislative session started January 12th and will conclude at midnight on March 12th. There are many issues before the legislature that should concern social justice advocates – some positive and some negative. We've summarized the main bills affecting the LGBTQ+ community below, but, at "press time," there are a total of 30 bills just under the subject of "human rights." New bills may still be added.

You can go to [www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill\\_Status/bill\\_status.cfm](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bill_status.cfm) to search by bill number or subject. This will identify the delegates and senators who introduced the bill, the committees considering it, and its status. Sometimes nothing happens on a bill that is introduced, and it dies at midnight on March 12th. Sometimes it gets through one committee or one branch of the legislature but dies in a second committee or in the second branch. Sometimes bills move very quickly so it is important to let your legislators know your opinion.

You can find contact information for your legislators at [www.wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/House/roster.cfm) and [www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm). Most of Monongalia County is in House District 51 (Delegates Barbara Fleischauer, Evan Hansen, Joe Statler, Danielle Walker, and John Williams) and Senate District 13 (Senators Bob Beach and Mike Caputo).



If this child was strong enough to survive it, your child is strong enough to learn about it.

**THE WEST VIRGINIA COALITION FOR TRUTH IN HISTORY NEEDS YOUR HELP NOW TO STOP SENATE BILL 498:**

Justice for All is American. Censorship is not.

Education Chair Senator Patricia Rucker has introduced [SB 498](#) for adoption during the 2022 WV Legislative Session. This bill, cynically titled the “Anti-Racism Act of 2022,” bans discussion or teaching of “Prohibited Concepts” in public schools and institutions of higher education. It allows any aggrieved individual to bring action against school districts, universities, teachers, professors, employees, and state education entities. “Prohibited concepts” include those related to “biological sex, ethnic groups and race” that might cause

discomfort, guilt, anguish, or distress. We urge you to read the outrageous full content of the bill and not to be misled by its seemingly benign content.

The real purpose of this bill is to keep the truth buried. Extremists want to suppress the truth about actions and policies that have injured and continue to harm oppressed people including African Americans, Indigenous Americans, Asian Americans, and the LGBTQ community. It seeks to suppress free discussion through fear by specifically targeting teachers and college professors. Sadly, this bill has a strong chance of being adopted in law.

The WV Coalition for Truth in History is taking action to fight SB 498! These actions are:

- An organized communications campaign to include:
- Outreach to legislative members
- Creating action alerts as this bill moves through legislative process
- Guest editorials, letters, emails, and phone calls
- If funding is secured:
  - The placement of a full-page ad in the *Charleston Gazette-Mail* targeted to legislators regarding the impact of censorship and suppression of accurate history
  - Circulation of a similar ad to members of the WV Press Corps

To carry out this work, funding is critical to place the ad and create printed material. Please consider a contribution in the form of a check made out to WVCTH c/o WVNAACP. Then please send the check to WVCTH c/o WVNAACP, PO Box 6491, Wheeling, WV 26003, with the comment in the memo line of “for

WVCTH Ad.” If you no longer write physical checks, your bank’s Bill Pay system is another option. If you want to use Zelle, please email [wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com) for transfer information.

Donations to the WV Coalition for Truth in History will be held and funds will be disbursed from a restricted 3rd party holding account under a Memorandum of Understanding with the West Virginia State Conference NAACP. To view a copy of the proposed ad, or for more information about these kinds of censorship bills, email: [WVtruthinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:WVtruthinhistory@gmail.com) .

What else can you do?

- Contact Senate Education Committee Members to tell them you oppose SB 498  
[Senator Rucker](#) - **Chair**  
[Senator Roberts](#) - **Vice-Chair**  
[Senator Azinger](#)  
[Senator Beach](#)  
[Senator Boley](#)  
[Senator Clements](#)  
[Senator Geffert](#)  
[Senator Grady](#)  
[Senator Karnes](#)  
[Senator Plymale](#)  
[Senator Romano](#)  
[Senator Stollings](#)  
[Senator Tarr](#)  
[Senator Trump](#)
- Submit a short and personal letter about why you oppose SB 498 to your local newspaper. For *the Dominion Post*, for instance, use [opinion@dominionpost.com](mailto:opinion@dominionpost.com). Include your address and phone to verify your letter. The *Dominion Post* will not print your full address, just your city.
- Join us in this work by emailing: [wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com)

**HERE IS A POSSIBLE FACEBOOK POSTING YOU CAN USE:**

**URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT**

**PASS THIS ON PASS THIS ON PASS THIS ON**

West Virginians:

Please call and write at the minimum the leadership of the WV Senate Education Committee. Ideally, we need to reach every state senator. We need to stop SB 498, the “Anti-Racism Act of 2022,” from making it to the floor of the Senate. Don’t be fooled by the bill’s language that on its surface may appear benign. Instead of prohibiting teaching “hate” or “superiority,” it is really a back-door attempt to block teaching or discussion of the United States’ problematic treatment of indigenous, LGBTQIA+ and non-white peoples. The problem, as is often the case, comes in the application. How, for example, does one teach about times in this nation’s history when people of different color, people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, or sexual orientations have been discriminated against or disadvantaged by governmental policy?

How, indeed, when the law includes a classic chilling effect by allowing any student or employee who objects to critical inquiry about our history and social systems may sue the individual and the agency.

This proposed legislation is nothing but a rephrasing of efforts here and elsewhere to ban discussion of so-called “divisive concepts” or teaching that even suggests that race has played and continues to be a part of this nation’s history.

**Here is a possible script to use for calls to Senate Education Committee Leadership:**

Hi, my name is [NAME], and I’m a constituent from [NAME of COUNTY].

I am calling to express my opposition to SB498, the “Anti-Racism Act of 2022.”

I urge Senator [Patricia Rucker or Rollan Roberts] NOT to bring this bill to the floor. When contacting Senator Rucker, please note that her father died recently so it would be appropriate to add condolences.

Don’t be fooled by the bill’s language that on its surface may appear benign. Instead of prohibiting teaching “hate” or “superiority,” it is really a back-door attempt to block teaching or discussion of the United States’ problematic treatment of indigenous, LGBTQIA+ and non-white peoples.

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This proposed legislation is nothing but a rephrasing of efforts here and elsewhere to ban discussion of so-called “divisive concepts” or teaching that even suggests that race has played and continues to be a part of this nation’s history.

**Contact information for Senate Education Committee Leadership:**

Senator Patricia Rucker – Chair and Senator who introduced this bill and, at “press time,” is the only sponsor of the bill. Her father died recently so, when calling, it would be appropriate to express condolences:

PO Box 507

Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7957

Email: Patricia.Rucker@wvsenate.gov

Email: RuckerForWV@gmail.com

Senator Rollan Roberts - Vice-Chair

P.O. Box 1955

Beaver, WV 25813  
District Phone: (681) 238-1779  
Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7831  
Email: rollan.roberts@wvsenate.gov

If you wish to contribute to the cost of the ad, the easiest immediate way is to send a check made payable to the West Virginia Coalition for Truth in History to WVCTH c/p West Virginia NAACP, PO Box 6491, Wheeling, WV 26003.

Contact the Coalition at [wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com](mailto:wvtruthinhistory@gmail.com).



**WEST VIRGINIA NOW:** West Virginia NOW is online at [www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow](http://www.facebook.com/WestVirginiaNow) and [wvnow.org](http://wvnow.org). The chapter is particularly following abortion-related bills during the legislative session.



**FAIRNESS TRACKING LGBTQ+-RELATED LEGISLATION:** Fairness is working on several bills that affect LGBTQ+ West Virginians. You can sign up to get alerts on these bills at <https://fairnesswv.org/legislation/>. At “press time,” there has been no action on any of these bills, other than referring them to a committee, except for HB 2232.

The **Youth Mental Health Protection Act** would enable the state to revoke the license of any medical practitioner that subjects a child to conversion therapy. The bill does NOT apply to clergy. Morgantown has already banned conversion therapy within City limits. This is **SB 267**, which is in the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee. If passed there, it goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The **Fairness Act** (Prohibiting unlawful discriminatory practices covered by Human Rights Act and Fair Housing Act) would expand the state’s human rights ordinance to include banning discrimination in employment and public accommodation based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or familial status. This is **SB 156** and is single referenced to the Senate Judiciary Committee. A companion bill, **HB 2538**, would add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the categories covered by the Human Rights Act. This has been referred to the House of Delegates Workforce Development Committee. If passed there, it would go to the House Judiciary Committee.

A related bill, **SB 256**, says “All persons within the boundaries of the State of West Virginia have the right to be free from any violence, or intimidation by threat of violence, committed against their persons or property because of their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, political affiliation, or sex, **disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.**” The bolded items are additions to the current law. This is also single referenced to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is similar to **HB 2697**, which is also pending in the House of Delegates Workforce Development Committee and then to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 2232** provides a process by which a city may hold an election to recall an ordinance. There is a general consensus that this could be used to recall ordinances that provide protections that are not otherwise covered by state law. For Morgantown, this could include the CROWN ordinance and the ban on conversion therapy. This bill has passed the House of Delegates Political Subdivisions Committee and is now pending in the House Judiciary Committee. Therefore, Fairness WV has posted the message to the right here:

**Tell House Judiciary Chairman to keep HB 2232 off the agenda!  
Call 304-340-3252 RIGHT NOW  
and leave him a message:**

*Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm calling to strongly urge Chairman Moore Capito to keep House Bill 2232 off the House Judiciary Committee's agenda.*

*I proudly support LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections, and this bill will put the local protections that 15 communities across West Virginia have adopted at risk of repeal. Please keep this bill off the agenda.*



**PROTECT THE CROWN ACT RALLY IS NOW FEBRUARY 11TH:** “CROWN” is an acronym for “Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair.” Morgantown passed a local ordinance related to the CROWN Act. SB 148 would prohibit “racial discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles.” It is pending in the Senate Workforce Committee, and, if passed, would go to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 2698 is the companion bill in the House of Delegates. It is pending before the House Government Organization Committee. If passed, it would go to the House Judiciary Committee.

At “press time,” there has been no action posted on either bill.



**ACLU BILL OF RIGHTS BASH IS MARCH 19TH:** “Join the ACLU-WV staff, board and friends for an evening of civil rights and celebration!

“We hope you can be a part of our Bill of Rights Bash fundraiser this year as we celebrate the work of the ACLU of West Virginia, honor giants in the civil liberties community, and look forward to the challenges ahead.

“Three outstanding West Virginians will also be honored at this event: Rabbi Victor Urecki and Ibtesam Barazi will receive the Sid Bell Memorial Award for their service to the ACLU of West Virginia, and West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker will receive the Roger Baldwin Award for her service to our state.

“Interested in being a sponsor? [View sponsorship options and descriptions here](#), and contact Rose Winland at [rwinland@acluwv.org](mailto:rwinland@acluwv.org) with questions.

“We are looking forward to seeing you at the Bill of Rights Bash!” The event will be held at the Beni Kedem Temple, 100 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301.

The **ACLU is also tracking hundreds of bills** during this legislative session. Go to [www.acluwv.org/en/see-what-were-tracking-2022-legislative-session](http://www.acluwv.org/en/see-what-were-tracking-2022-legislative-session) to see bill numbers, short summaries, and whether the ACLU supports, opposes, or is neutral on each bill.



**Registration is now open for the Appalachian Queer Youth Summit:**

“This free camp will bring together young West Virginians either identify as LGBTQ+ or come from LGBTQ+ families from across the state, and give them the tools they need to organize and advocate for the issues they care about.

“Campers will learn how to talk to legislators, run effective meetings, tell powerful stories, and more, and will participate in a collective action to better the lives of LGBTQ+ people after the camp concludes. Perhaps most importantly, AQYS campers will get to be themselves for a weekend around people who understand them.

“The 2022 Summit will take place at Jackson's Mill in Lewis County from late morning on August 1st to the afternoon on August 5th.”

For more information and the registration link, please go to <https://action.aclu.org/webform/wv-aqys-2022>.

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2022**

From [www.diversityresources.com/2022-diversity-calendar/](http://www.diversityresources.com/2022-diversity-calendar/)

Black History Month: celebrates African American History. February was chosen because Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two men prominent in eliminating slavery, were both born in February

2/1 – Chinese New Year: festival that celebrates the beginning of a new year in the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar

2/11 – Birthday of Tammy Baldwin (LGBTQ+): first openly LGBT woman elected to both the House of Representatives and the Senate

2/14 – Birthday of Frederick Douglass (Black American): well-known American social reformer and abolitionist, Douglass escaped slavery and became a prominent activist during the Civil War

2/15 – Nirvana Day (Buddhist): also known as Parinirvana, this annual festival remembers the death of the Buddha after he reached Nirvana

2/15 – Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (Women): one of the most visible leaders of the women's suffrage movement. She championed temperance, abolition, rights of labor, and equal pay for equal work