



### **Community Coalition for Social Justice Annual Report for October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021**

- Monthly e-newsletters to 233 individuals and organizations about local and state-level social justice events.
- Sponsored our Fifteenth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day celebration as a virtual event via Zoom and Facebook Live, with a theme of “West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders.”
  - We worked with the West Virginia University Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, especially Jascenna Haislet, the program coordinator and director, and Michelle Klishis, the professional technologist, to provide the digital platforms that allowed us to reach at least 169 on Zoom (111) and various Facebook pages (58), including performers. We also had attendees from outside the Morgantown area, including from Atlanta.
  - We again worked with Barb Watkins, executive director of Main Street Morgantown, who advertised the event on her various social media contacts.
  - Jenny Bardwell, Karyn Williams, and the WVU Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA) students provided social media publicity.
  - Marly Hazen Ynigues provided publicity through the NAACP and streamed the event on the NAACP Facebook page.
  - Mike Sharley, a CCSJ steering committee member, streamed the event on the CCSJ Facebook page.
  - We featured Ilene Evans portraying Memphis Tennessee Garrison.
  - Morgantown Mayor Ron Dulaney welcomed people to the event.
  - Dr. Hope Koehler, WVU professor of voice, sang.
  - Barb Howe, a CCSJ steering committee member, presented a PowerPoint on West Virginia Civil Rights Leaders.
  - In addition to our usual publicity that included state and local officials, day care centers, neighborhood associations, and faith communities, we advertised through the Monongalia County Board of Education.
  - We worked with the Morgantown-Kingwood Chapter of the NAACP and its president, Dr. Jerry Carr, Jr., for the fourth year to feature Demarcus Bandy as the winner of their essay contest as a participant in our program.
- Continued monthly Zoom meetings that allowed everyone interested to participate.
- Put a Lady Justice scarecrow at the West Virginia Botanic Garden in October as part of their fundraiser and encouragement for visitors to become members of the Garden.
- Along with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP, Morgantown NOW, West Virginia NOW, and Mountaineers for Progress, sent a letter to Mac Warner, West Virginia Secretary of State, in October, expressing concerns about election security and asking him to speak out to assure voters that the 2020 November election will be secure. It also asked him to remind people that West Virginia law does not allow poll watchers.
- Received funding from the FirstEnergy Foundation in November to support our work and initiated discussions with staff of The Shack on possible future joint programs.
- Participated in the Zoom meetings of the City of Morgantown Special Committee on Community Policing and Citizens Review Board, with Tim Hairston, a CCSJ steering committee member, as our representative at the meetings.
- Cooperated with Dismantling Racism Together to host a Zoom forum on the proposed Morgantown Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board on February 3rd that attracted at least 60 attendees.

- At the request of the Morgantown Human Rights Commission, commented at the February 23rd Morgantown City Council Committee of the Whole meeting in support of their proposed resolutions on land acknowledgement, Indigenous People’s Day, and CROWN non-discrimination. We “debuted” the land acknowledgement statement during our Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event and added our name to the documentation that Bonnie Brown, coordinator of the West Virginia University Native American Studies Program, compiled to present to City Council in support of that resolution and the one on Indigenous People’s Day.
- Wrote a letter to the editor of the *Dominion Post* in support of the proposed ordinance to create a Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board that was published on February 26th.
- Worked with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP to identify potential members of the Civilian Police Review and Advisory Board and added our endorsement to a potential member as one of the three organizational members of the board.
- Presented a Zoom program by Mike Attfield and Sheila Rye about CCSJ to the Morgantown North Rotary on July 29th.
- Continued our cooperation with the Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP with Barb Howe as chair of the branch’s Community Coordination Committee and the branch’s commitment to have a student participate in our 2021 MLK Day event.
- Wrote letters to local officials in Morgantown, Star City, Granville, and Westover and to the Monongalia County Commissioners in August, asking them to provide opportunities for public input into the use of the federal American Rescue Plan funds that they are receiving. The Morgantown/Kingwood Branch of the NAACP provided leadership on this effort.
- Held our annual meeting on September 8th as a Zoom call with Eve Faulkes, WVU professor emerita of design, on her new book entitled *Preserving the Stories of Scotts Run, West Virginia: A Ten-Year Partnership From 2011 to 2021*, which was published with financial support from the West Virginia Humanities Council. Sent invitations to local groups like the NAACP, Morgantown NOW, League of Women Voters of Morgantown-Monongalia County, Dismantling Racism Together, OLLI at WVU, and others. About 30 people were on the call. The recording of this meeting is available at [https://www.ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#CCSJ\\_Annual\\_Meeting](https://www.ccsjwv.org/ccsj-news.html#CCSJ_Annual_Meeting).
- Held an election for officers and steering committee members as part of the annual meeting. Officers are now Mike Attfield, chair; Al Anderson, vice chair; Sheila Rye, secretary; and Barb Howe, treasurer. Other steering committee members are Susan Brown, Judy Cohen, Laura Cohen, Tim Hairston, Sandra Nelms, and Mike Sharley.
- Maintain a web site at [www.ccsjwv.org](http://www.ccsjwv.org) and Facebook page at Community Coalition for Social Justice at Morgantown, WV.
- Began planning for our 16th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day event that will be held virtually on January 17, 2022, because of COVID-19. The City of Morgantown has again provided funding for this event, and we will again partner with OLLI at WVU to offer this program via Zoom and Facebook Live. The tentative theme for the program is “Respect.”