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HUNTINGTON LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

YEAR OF THE VOTER - MARCH 1970

Mrs. Neil Gibbins, President
6128 Gideon Road, 736-3287

Mrs. George Hartman, Editor
6224 Brenda Court, 736-5790

C A L E N D A R

- March 30 100th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment extending franchise to all male citizens "regardless of race or color"
- March 31 8:00p.m. Save Our Schools Meet Your School Board Candidates Meeting, Junior League Building, 617 - 9th Ave.
- April 3 & 4 State Council, Lake View Inn, Cheat Lake, Morgantown
- April 7 9:30 a.m. Juvenile Services Unit Meeting, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, baby-sitter provided.
- April 8 7:30 p.m. Juvenile Services Unit Meeting, with Mrs. Charles Adams, 926 - 11th Ave.
- April 14 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting, all interested Leaguers welcome. Mrs. D. C. Carlson, 2009 N. Englewood Rd.
- April 20 Last day to turn in petitions for representation for Washington D.C. Please read bulletin items.
- April 21 9:30 a.m. Water Unit meeting, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, baby-sitter provided.
- April 22 7:30 p.m. Water Unit meeting, with Mrs. Herman Urscher, 620 - 10th Ave.
- April 30 7:30 p.m. AAUW Meet the Candidates for School Board, Huntington Womans' Club, 1201 Huntington Ave.
- May 5 9:30 a.m. Juvenile Services Unit meeting, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, baby-sitter provided
- May 6 7:30 p.m. Juvenile Services Unit meeting, with Mrs. David Collett, 527 - 11th Ave. west

INTERESTED IN AN ACTION ITEM ?

League members, this is the opportunity to participate in a nation-wide petition campaign for representation in Congress for Washington D. C. citizens.

Take the petition from this bulletin or from the Feb.-March National Voter to all the organizations you belong to - bridge clubs, Adult Sunday School classes and church groups, PTA, civic organizations, garden clubs, parties, etc. Leave the petition on a table near your front door for visitors to sign.

Do participate! And Begin Now!

TIPS FOR THE PETITION DRIVE

1. Petitions must be returned to Mrs. Neil Gibbins, 6128 Gideon Rd. by April 20. Our League is required to send the total number of signatures to State Board by April 24.
2. Workers should not sign their own petitions, since no one can witness his own signature.
3. The Hatch Act does not prohibit signing this petition. This is not a nominating petition.
4. Signatures must be in the handwriting of the signer and in Ink.
5. Signers need not be registered voters but avoid asking for signatures from persons under 16 years of age.
6. If you need extra petitions, call Mrs. Harvey Saunders, 529-6787.
7. The Feb.-March National Voter includes information about Washington D.C. on the back of the petition form. Read it!

TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Opponents of D.C. self-government say that Washington is a federal city; therefore all U.S. citizens should have the responsibility for it.

The Constitution provides in Article I, Section 8, that among the powers of Congress is "to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever over such District..." Congress would not relinquish in constitutional right to legislate for the District even if it should delegate certain purely local responsibilities to an elected city government or if the Constitution were amended to grant D.C. citizens representation in Congress

Other opponents say the federal government provides so much money to run the city that it should take charge of D. C. local affairs. Washington D.C. citizens' per capita income is higher than any state in the union; therefore, D. C. citizens make a high proportionate contribution to the federal treasury. In addition, D.C. residents pay the same taxes as citizens elsewhere - sales, liquor, gasoline, tobacco, property, D.C. income, etc. The federal government does provide a part of the city's total revenue (1967 - 29.8%) but thirteen state governments received a higher per cent

of their revenues from federal funds and eleven, including West Virginia, received 25% of total state revenues from the federal government.

Almost half of real property in the District is not on the tax rolls and not a source of local property tax revenue. But services offered these properties - lighting, streets, schools, water, sanitation, and police protection - are charged to the local budget.

D. C. citizens are not, when asking for self-government and a chance to contribute to the solutions of their problems, seeking something new or something they have not had before. The city of Washington, incorporated in 1802, at first had its mayor appointed but, after 1820, popularly elected. It had a 12-member elected council and an 8-man Board of Aldermen. This continued until 1871. In 1871 Congress established a territorial government for the entire District, with one elected and one appointed local legislative body, an appointed governor and a non-voting delegate to the House of Representatives. Three years later, pressure was brought to bear to change the D.C. government; Congress in 1874 abolished the territorial government and non-voting delegate.

One reason for this action was the excessive burden on local taxpayers for laying of sewer and water mains, improving the streets, planting of parks, The extensive public works program carried out the magnificent plans of L'Enfant and made Washington for generations to come one of the world's most beautiful capitals. The appointed governor, as a result of the ambitious program, ran the city heavily into debt. Congress agreed to guarantee the debt and pay half of the D.C. budget (which it did for many years but it is about 29.8% now). It then dissolved the District government and took over running the city itself. It also promised to write a charter for a new D. C. government. To date, no such charter has passed both houses of Congress.

Congress acts as a city council for the District. The time spent by 25 members of the House District committee and 7 members of the Senate District committee (which consider local D.C. legislation) plus the time of the two appropriations committees add up to many expensive hours. Final action on all D.C. bills take the time of all members of Congress and the President, and with all the difficult national and international issues they can not give adequate attention to local D.C. affairs.

Self-government for D. C. requires only legislation passed by Congress, and signed by the President. Representation in Congress requires a constitutional amendment.

D. C. citizens pay their full share of local and federal taxes, serve in the armed forces, must obey the laws and assume all the responsibilities of citizenship without enjoying all its' rights.

Helen Gibbins
President

HUNTINGTON LEAGUE ONLY - CONSENSUS ON LEGISLATIVE STUDY

The consensus of the members at four unit meetings concerning "Legislature" is as follows:

Legislative salaries should be set by legislative determination. Per diem expenses should be permitted in addition to salaries for regular, interim and special sessions, and should not be constitutionally limited.

The constitution should set up minimum length of sessions with the legislature given power to set up requirements for special and extended sessions, or lengthening of regular sessions. This would require a 2/3 majority vote of elected members.

Annual sessions should be sixty days minimum in length, unrestricted as to subject matter. The group supported the H.J.R. #8, but preferred legislative option.

Regarding the question of eligibility for service in the legislature, it was the consensus that private individuals should have no restrictions as to eligibility, but that public officials should be listed as stated in H.J.R. #8, which reads as follows: "no person holding any other lucrative office or employment under this State, the United States, or any foreign government; no member of Congress; and no person who is sheriff, constable, or clerk of any court of record, shall be eligible to a seat in the Legislature". A minority felt that the wording of this should state that any official, elected or appointed, should be ineligible. Further clarification as to the definition of "appointed" is necessary.

It was also agreed that a 2/3 majority of elected delegates should be required to override the Governor's veto. Minority opinions were : 2/3 vote of delegates present required, and preference for a 3/5 majority rather than a 2/3 majority.

The group supports House Joint Resolution # 8, which specifies that the question of salaries and expenses of legislators be turned over to a Legislative Compensation Commission created by H.J.R. # 8, and thereafter enacted into general law by the legislature.

Twenty-five members took part in studying this item.

Jean Dickinson
Legislative Chairman

EXCUSE ONE SIZZLING RED FACE, BUT

There was a mistake in the juvenile judge article in the last bulletin. Cabell County does not have the only county detention home. Marshall, Kanawha and Marion counties each have one. It was a mistake that should never have happened but did - because one tired typist was too cocky to look at her notes. Be kind, let her go hide in her hole.

Beth Bauserman

WATER

The League of Women Voters has studied and initiated action on the water resources item for 12 years. As a League member are you aware of the progressive legislation in the areas of water management and pollution abatement that the League has successfully supported?

The League supported the Water Resources Research Act (1964) establishing water resources research institutes in each state and grants for research.

The League aided in the passage of the Water Resources Planning Act (1965) which authorizes creation of river basin commissions and grants to states for planning.

The League worked to strengthen the Federal Water Pollution Control Act through the following amendments;

Water Quality Act (1965) requiring all states to adopt water quality standards for interstate streams.

Clean Water Restoration Act (1966) which encourages states to supply funds and authorizes increased federal funds for treatment facility construction grants.

Water Quality Improvement Act (1968) authorizing installment payments of the federal share of treatment facility costs.

The League campaigned for federal appropriations to aid construction of sewage treatment plants and Congress voted a record \$800 million for 1970.

The League long supported the creation of the recently authorized National Water Commission of experts who are not connected with federal agencies.

The League began in 1967 to work for control of dredging and dumping and preservation of estuarine areas. League members are continuing to support estuarine study in Congress.

It is an impressive record and one that all League members should take pride in. The LWV must continue to support effective legislation on this vital issue.

Fonetta Collett

LOCAL ELECTION LAWS IN ACTION

NOW! BEFORE YOU FORGET!

League members have had fruitful interviews during Feb. with local officials on the subject of county administration of election laws. Interesting interviews were held with County Clerk Keith Arthur and with County Attorney Robert Ellis. If you would like to meet with County Court members or other officials during March, contact Keenie Hill, 523-2067.

You must know one person who might be a potential Leaguer. THINK HARD. Then pass the enclosed coloring book on to them. Explain our Issues and Action policy. Invite them to the next meeting. Tell them about Voters' Service. Now is the time to join! Membership is everyone's job. (If they don't join, then you've done some public relations).

Keenie Hill
Election Laws

Kathleen Kowalski
Membership

50TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

Look here, members! Congratulations! You have amassed the fantastic total of \$2663.00 during the 50th Anniv. Drive! Members gave \$1668.00 and solicited \$938.00 from the community. That's terrific! I'm proud of you, thank you.

Kathleen Kowalski
Finance and 50th

MORE LEAGUE HOMEWORK

Lt Bowen, in charge of the juvenile unit of the Huntington Police Dept., will visit with us April 7 and 8 during our study of juvenile services. Some topics we might consider are; special training, function, legal complications, procedures, records, guide lines, public relations.

Beth Bauserman

VOTER SERVICE

Important Dates:

April 11 - Last day for voter registration.

May 12 - Primary Election Day

Remind all your friends and neighbors to be sure they are properly registered to vote in the Primary. Anyone not yet 21 but who will be by the General Election Nov. 3 may register now and vote in the Primary.

Bea Lingenfelter
Voter Service

MRS. GEORGE HARTMAN
6224 BRENDA COURT
HUNTINGTON, W. VA. 25705



Mrs. G. Robert Nugent
760 Mountain View Place
Morgantown, W.Va. 26505