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### LWV Bulletin, October, 2006

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HUNTINGTON



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LWVUS website: [www.LWV.ORG](http://www.LWV.ORG)

October 2006 Bulletin

## CANDIDATES MEETING

On Oct. 19, 7 pm at the Junior League Community Center, 627 Ninth Ave., the public is invited to a candidates meeting. We have invited candidates for the Cabell County Commission (7 – 7:15); WV Senate Fifth District (7:20 – 7:35); WV House of Delegates 15<sup>th</sup> District (7:40 – 8:20); and WV House of Delegates 16<sup>th</sup> District (8:25 – 9:05). Wendy Thomas will moderate the meeting. Anyone may submit questions on cards to the moderator, and she will ask the questions of the candidates. Each candidate has the opportunity to answer each question, and will be given one minute per answer. At the end the candidates may give one-minute wrap ups. The Junior League will serve refreshments after the formal session. The meeting will be sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Junior League, and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women. Please invite your friends to come with you to the meeting so that they will have the opportunity to hear the candidates voice their opinions on current issues.

## BALLOT ISSUE – PARKS AND RECREATION FEE

The Huntington League of Women Voters Board voted to support the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation District's \$95 (or about 26 cents/day) per household fee to be on the November 7 ballot. This vote was based on our position on recreation. In 1970 after an extensive study the Huntington League came to consensus in support of a comprehensive recreational system for all citizens of our area.

It is fortunate that early leaders in the Huntington area had the foresight to purchase lands for parks; but without adequate funding maintaining the park system will continue to be impossible. It is bad stewardship to allow this valuable property to deteriorate. In addition most of the activities programs have been eliminated, along with the personnel to administer them.

Present funding from the property tax amounts to \$15.52 per capita, much less than the per capita income in the other park districts of the state. The GHPRD's income has not kept up with costs and is not adequate to maintain park property and run programs. If voters approve the fee, the \$3.4 million annual income will be placed in a special account to address infrastructure repairs, on-going maintenance, capital development, funding collection costs, paying for personnel costs, and restoration of activities. Also if the fee passes, the park district "will offer to assume full responsibility for the operations and maintenance of" Harris Riverfront Park (now run by the city).

The League believes that it is vital that the GHPRD provide up-to-date programming that will meet the needs of children, youth, and adults throughout the park district. Health experts overwhelmingly cite the need for everyone to exercise and participate in community activities both for good physical and mental health. Communities benefit when many opportunities for recreation and events are provided. An excellent park and recreation system is one of the basics for making our community attractive to those who live here and those whom we are trying to attract from elsewhere. All of this takes an adequate level of funding.

For more information about the GHPRD's proposals go to the Herald-Dispatch's website, [www.herald-dispatch.com](http://www.herald-dispatch.com). Click "Election 2006"; then "Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District".

#### VOTING TIPS

Be sure to check the Herald-Dispatch's October 23 newspaper for the candidates' answers to questions. Also the Herald-Dispatch's website will carry the answers - [www.herald-dispatch.com](http://www.herald-dispatch.com).

Avoid the crowds. If you can, go to the polls during off hours: 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. The polls open at 6:30 am and close at 7:30 pm.

Take a friend to vote. Why go alone when you can take a friend or loved one to vote? And don't forget to take your children with you so that they will realize that voting is something adults do.

If you registered to vote by a mail-in form, be sure to take your ID with you the first time you vote after registering by mail.

Get help if you do not understand how to operate the voting device. The poll workers are there to help you.

If your name is not in the poll book, check to see that you are in the right polling place. If you are in the correct polling place, vote a provisional ballot. It will be determined later if your vote will count.

For more information check the Cabell County Clerk's office website. It covers extensive elections information, such as voter registration forms, your House of Delegates district, your precinct location, who is eligible to vote, etc.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO Betty Cleckley and Nancy and Elinore Taylor. They were featured in a "10 Beautiful Women" article in the fall issue of *MV Metro Valley* magazine.**

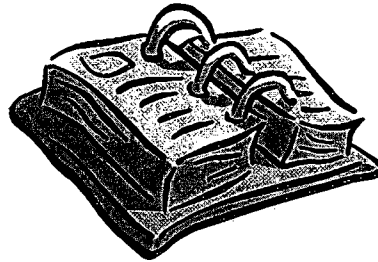
LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

To join, send your check to: Ann Spear, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

**LWV Huntington Area**  
Jane Husted, Editor

#### CALENDAR



Oct. 19, 7 pm. Junior League Community Center. Candidates meeting

Oct. 17. Last day to register to vote, general election

Oct. 18-Nov. 4. Early voting in person in courthouse

Oct. 23 Candidates answers to our questionnaire to be published in the Herald-Dispatch and on its website.

THANKS TO Virginia Henseley for mailing out the finance letters to contributors to the League. Because the League provides the public with election and other governmental information, we ask public minded persons to contribute to these projects.

#### Betty Barrett Thanks You

I do want to thank members of the League who helped with the National Low Income Housing Coalition's efforts in Huntington. Along with the Cabell-Huntington Coalition for the homeless, Huntington City Mission and Huntington Housing Authority, and staff from Karen Cole's County Clerk's office, Helen Brown, Elinor Taylor, Julie Damewood, and organizer Doris Johnson, registered voters and demonstrated the voting device at Harmony House, Huntington City Mission, Goodwill, Woodlands, AARP meeting, and other locations. This has been a regular activity that this year produced more than 25 new voters who want to vote to advocate for their needs for better housing, health care, human services.

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