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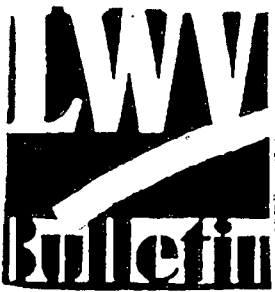
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### LWV Bulletin, February, 1999

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# Huntington Area League of Women Voters

Helen Gibbins, President  
6128 Gideon Road  
Huntington, WV 25705  
736-3287

Ann Logan Speer, Treasurer  
706 Ridgewood Road  
Huntington, WV 25701  
525-2244

February 1999

LWVWV WEB SITE

<http://access.mountain.net/~mhalley/lwvww.htm>

## Family abuse topic of the February meeting

The February meeting of the Huntington Area League of Women Voters will be held on Saturday, February 20, at 10:00 a.m. at the West Huntington Branch Library. The speaker will be Virginia Daniels from Branches talking about Family Abuse (see accompanying article by Beth Bauserman). The meeting is sponsored by the League, AAUW, and the American Negro Association of Business and Professional Women. This will be an opportunity for all of us to become better informed about family abuse and programs dealing with the problem as well as meeting with women from other organizations.

## Charting the Health of American Democracy *(from the LWV summary statement)*

The foundations upon which American democracy is built are crumbling. For over two hundred years, American democracy has been sustained by the willingness of citizens to participate and engage in political action and by their capacity to make government responsive to their needs and aspirations. Now, as we head into the third century of self-government, citizens too often are withdrawing from the political process, confidence in civic institutions is declining and government is growing less responsive to citizens' concerns. Voter participation has hit the lowest level since 1924. The health of our democratic system is in jeopardy.

At our country's founding, Thomas Jefferson proposed that the Constitution be rewritten for each successive generation. That idea expresses a fundamental truth about self-government: each generation is responsible for forging a new relationship between citizens and their government--for making democracy work.

Why is the health of democracy important? For each of us, the decisions made by our government and in our communities affect our lives deeply. The quality of our children's education, the health care that we receive, the purity of the air we breathe, all are substantially determined by community action and government decisions. From taxes and wages to mortgage rates and leave policies, government action shapes and influences our economic well-being. Whether our democratic system is responsive to our needs and susceptible to our influence helps determine whether we will be successful in our "pursuit of happiness."

LWVUS's campaign "Making Democracy Work" promotes the kind of change that will help restore our democratic system.

## Violence against women

*by Beth Bauserman, Social Policy Chair*

It is hard to believe that only recently has violence against women been considered a crime. Some minor laws have been passed, but much, much more needs to be addressed.

There is a need to increase awareness about the prevalence of rape. There are at present no standards for reporting and responding to the crime. Recent incidence of sexual misconduct in the military revealed a system that is grossly inadequate in handling gender-based violence.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women, exceeding auto accidents, muggings and rape combined. Older, disabled and immigrant women are more vulnerable to becoming victims of domestic and sexual violence. Victims often lose work time in order to recover from physical and emotional trauma of abuse.

No one knows more about domestic violence in the Huntington area than Virginia Daniels. She will speak to us on February 20 at the West Huntington Branch Library at 10:00 a.m. It will be well worth your time. You may even learn that not all victims are poor and ignorant.

## Volunteers needed for the Summer Fun project

Doris Johnson has been the manager of our Summer Fun flyer for a number of years, but is now taking care of her extremely ill daughter who lives in Baltimore. Doris will be unable to manage Summer Fun this spring. She has the project well organized, but we do need volunteers to help us with letters to recreation providers, accumulating the information for the printer, and distribution to schools. Please contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, or [gibbins@marshall.edu](mailto:gibbins@marshall.edu) if you can help.

## Plan ahead now for March Annual Meeting

Monday, March 29 will be the date of Huntington LWV's annual meeting. Dr. Calvin Kent, MU Dean of the College of Business, will be the speaker talking about the proposals of the Governor's Tax Study Committee.

**Thank you,** Rose Riter, for preparing our Public Officials flyer.

## Linkages . . .

\*From The Charleston bulletin --

New on the West Virginia League's web site -

\*1999-2000 WV legislators names

\*Write-in candidate voting procedures

\*League's 1999 legislative priorities

\*Chart showing how each House and Senate district is constructed

\*Bills which the League is following

\*Link to the state's EDGAR that posts all bills in their entirety, by committee, calendars, etc.

The WV League's web site address is on the front of our bulletin, but another easy way to reach it is to go to the LWVUS's web site -- [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) and go to other League sites -- WV.

The web master, Deirdra Halley, asks for suggestions for the site and for links. Her email address is on the LWVWV's web site.

\*Choice Institute, an organization which provides voter information on its web site, [vote.com](http://vote.com), awarded the WV League's web site the citation as an outstanding political web site. Congratulations to Deirdra Halley, our web master.

\*Visit the Legislature's Website at [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us) for daily updates

## Welcome

*new members* - Sherry Christian and Jane Husted.

## How does the Legislature work?

Martha Woodward is scheduling a meeting with Yeager scholars to play a recently purchased legislative game. Through this game one learns about the legislative process. If you would like to take part in this game, contact Martha at 525-7404.

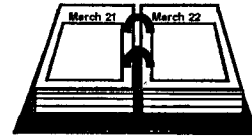
The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household.

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

**LWV** Huntington Area

**BULLETIN**

Sally K. Adkins, Editor



**February 11** Women's Day at the Legislature. (Call the Women's Commission, 558-0070, for more information).

**February 20** LWV Huntington Area monthly meeting, 10 am, West Huntington Library, topic - Family Abuse.

**February 22** LWV Huntington Area, Board Meeting, 11:30 am, Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.

**March 24** Dr. C. Edward Koop speaks at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse at Marshall University.

**March 25** Drinko Symposium on Rural Health Care, Marshall University.

**March 29** Annual Meeting

## Cabell County 1998 General Election Turnout Figures

In Cabell County, 39.93% of the 49,754 registered voters voted in 1998. The state average turnout was 40.20% of registered voters.

## Greenbottom Society elects new officers

New officers for the Greenbottom Society are: Ned Jones, President and Karen Nance, Vice-president. The society is looking forward to establishing an endowment.

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