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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
Area Bulletin 1960-1969

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12-1960

**League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin,  
December, 1960**

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. Harold N. Kagan, Editor  
Huntington, W. Va.

Mrs. E. M. Compton, President  
December, 1960

GENERAL MEETING - DECEMBER 8, 1960

Thursday - 8:00 P. M.

Junior League Club House

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION

State Agenda Item I: A Study of the State Constitution, and support of revisions which provide effective government responsive to the needs of the people of West Virginia.

Leagues in West Virginia are coming to the end of the period during which we studied and explored the areas in which constitutional revision is needed. The need is so great, the areas so numerous that it has been most frustrating in considering where effective action should begin.

Within our study of the state item on Education, changes in the constitution were found necessary to facilitate improved administration of school program.

The State League has been discouraged by the meager flow of information from the Commission on Constitutional Revision appointed in 1957 by a joint resolution of the legislature. State has recently requested local leagues to make their first round suggestion on program for the next two years. The Huntington Board unanimously agreed that a more concentrated effort should be made for study and action on Constitutional Revision, and that the state current agenda be limited to this one item.

But there is still the question of "whither"? Though there has been no official word of the activity of the commission, there have been murmurings of sub-committees hard at work. It is fairly certain that reports and recommendations will be made by the 1961 Legislature within the realm of the Judiciary and the Executive Departments.

So that we may better understand and be able to evaluate these reports and take action if called upon, we have asked two well-informed Huntingtonians to speak to us on the problems and possible solutions within these two areas of state government.

Seldon S. McNeer, attorney-at-law, a past president of the West Virginia Bar Association, has been working actively for judicial reform and is a proponent of the Missouri Plan - a system of selecting judges. Mr. McNeer will speak on problems and reforms needed within the Judiciary.

David M. Baker, attorney-at-law, has served two terms as a member of the House of

Delegates member of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, and special legislative counsel to Governor Underwood. Mr. Baker will speak on the Executive Department.

Dean John P. Wheeler, Director, State Constitutional Studies Project, National Municipal League, wrote the chairman of the Constitutional Revision Conference following his address to the meeting: "I stand pretty firmly behind the view that we have to make some radical changes at the state level. I don't believe we can salvage the state - and I use that word salvage advisedly - without radical action -- at this point in the evolution of the federal system, the states are going to have to do something quite dramatic if they are to maintain their present position, much less recoup any losses they might have sustained."

We must be informed before we can take effective action. Do Come.

Yvonne Mook

P. S. Husbands and friends are cordially invited.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. John Clay  
447 Norway JA 5-0646

Mrs. Nelson Cohen  
547 North Inwood Drive JA 5-3622

Mrs. Peter Ellenbogen  
3028 Wallace Circle JA 5-2137

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An orientation meeting for new and prospective members was held on November 17th. The need for further knowledge of city government was voiced, so a study group has been formed. The first meeting will be held at Lois Cahill's, on Thursday, December 1st, at 9:30 A. M., and David Francis' Progress Reports will be discussed.

This is the first meeting of a proposed series, so if you are interested in subsequent meetings or wish more information, contact Peggy Schroeder, JA 3-1758.

Peggy Schroeder

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A CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY

Those who attended the November meeting undoubtedly came away with an increased awareness of the need to be informed on Council-Manager government, the gains Huntington has made as a result of it, the goals yet to be reached, and the significance of the coming city elections next spring.

Reading the speeches of Mayor Francis which were distributed should help us in the first three - we strongly urge you to do this reading. Reading closely, discussing and analyzing any information pertinent to the coming election will help us understand the fourth item above.

To repeat from the last Bulletin - as it now stands there is no legal question involved as to whether Council-Manager government is to be retained or discarded, other recent comments and/or interpretations to the contrary. The form of government could be harmed, however, by electing councilmen who are unsympathetic to that form. While obviously the League will not support or oppose candidates, we as members can maintain an interest in the attitude of the potential candidates toward Council-Manager Government and do our utmost through the channels open to us to support that form of government.

One channel now being enlarged is referred to on the preceding page. The study group described by Peg Schroeder will help to inform new and "old" members on our city government.

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LOCAL ITEM - COMMUNITY PLANNING

Re this Current Agenda Item, copies of the speech made by Mayor Francis on the Operation of the City Planning Commission have been mailed to those members not present at the November meeting. This is a service to keep members informed on the present status of that item.

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P L E A S E

We need more members to serve as League representatives at the meetings of the following agencies:

City Council - 2nd and 4th Mondays -  
7:30 P.M., City Hall

City Planning Commission - 1st Mondays -  
7:30 P.M., City Hall

County Planning Commission -  
3rd Thursdays -  
7:00 P. M. Court House

This does not mean regular attendance by any one person. You need only go when convenient, and when called. But it would be helpful to have a list of members who are interested and willing to attend at different times. In addition, such attendance by new members will aid in their getting acquainted with our local government. Please call me - JA 2-3761 - if you can do this type of "spot job".

Harmony Phillips.

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DUES

For the benefit of Prospective Members, the League policy is that dues paid after January 1st, 1961, covers membership to April, 1962. Dues are \$5.00, payable to the League of Women Voters of the United States. Our treasurer is:

Mrs. Victor Wormser  
1222 Huntington Avenue

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