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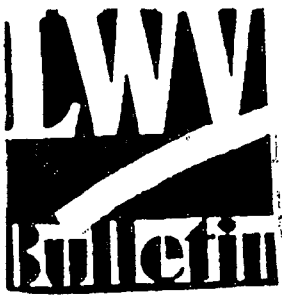
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### LWV Bulletin, March, 1999

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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LWVWV WEB SITE

March 1999

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

## Annual Meeting set for March 29

Monday, March 29, will be the date of our annual meeting. The speaker, Dr. Cal Kent, MU Dean of Business and member of Huntington's City Council, will talk about the proposals of the Governor's Commission on Fair Taxation. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. The cost will be \$5 and reservations may be called in to Nancy Taylor, 522-3361, or Mary Anderson, 523-2032.

Following the speech, the annual business meeting will include election of officers and adoption of the 1999-2000 budget and program, as proposed in this bulletin. Members will also give direction to the board of directors for the 1999-2000 year.

## PROJECT IMPACT: BUILDING A DISASTER RESISTANT COMMUNITY

Cabell County will receive a \$300,000 federal grant to reduce the personal and economic costs of natural disasters. Avoiding the impacts of disasters through preparation and preventive activities is the aim of the program.

The project will:

- 1) Build community partnerships by enlisting the cooperation of local government leaders, civic and volunteer groups, businesses, and individuals.
- 2) Examine our county's risks and assess our vulnerability to those risks.
- 3) Target resources and prioritize actions necessary to reduce the impact and aftermath of future disasters.
- 4) Build support and communicate what is being done and can be done to prevent problems.

Programs include educating people on how to decrease their risks. Examples would be showing the hazards of driving through flooded ways and informing people about Huntington and Cabell County's flood plain regulations and how to floodproof their homes. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) initiated Project Impact in order to change the way America deals with disasters. Cabell County is the second area in WV to receive a grant. Ed Copeland, Region II Planning and Development Council, is the coordinator of the project.

**Welcome** new member - Nancy Newfeld.

## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON FAIR TAXATION

Dr. Cal Kent, is a member of the commission and will be the presenter of the commission's proposals at the Huntington League's annual meeting. The commission was created to evaluate state taxes and their relation to the principles and values they are supposed to be supporting. The League of Women Voters of West Virginia has proposed a restudy of tax issues relating to the commission's proposals.

The commission's proposals include:

Retain for local government only - Real property tax and property transfer tax.

Retain - estate tax, gasoline sales tax; gasoline excise tax, severance tax; beer tax; liquor profits tax; wine tax.

Repeal - Personal property tax on vehicles; property tax on machinery; personal property tax on equipment and inventory; business franchise tax; corporate charter tax; state property tax; business registration tax; telecommunications tax; health care provider tax; insurance premiums tax; auto privilege tax; business and occupation tax; soft drink excise tax.

Replace - personal income tax with a progressive income tax; corporate net income tax with a single business tax; consumer's sales and use tax with a general excise tax and cigarette tax with a tobacco tax.

Some of the League's concerns pertain to fairness, progressiveness, and adequacy of income to support our educational system. Another factor to consider is whether the legislature is politically willing to set fees and taxes commensurate with the costs of administering and enforcing governmental programs. Examples would be its reluctance to set a tax on smokeless tobacco even though health costs are higher for those who use it; and its lack of action on the tire dumps in the state which would take a fee on tires to finance the clean up.

## EARTH DAY, APRIL 22

Marshall University will celebrate Earth Day with programs and displays. The League will prepare a table display for the celebration. If anyone would like to help or has ideas on what to feature on the table, please contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

**Dues** for 1999-2000 may be paid at the annual meeting.

## Ideas from the environmental defense fund about preventing waste at work . . .

\*Use routing slips to share publications and documents rather than copying them.

\*Print and copy on both sides of the page.

\*Use electronic mail, and avoid printing your e-mail messages unless necessary.

\*Install software for paperless faxing via your modem.

\*Use your word processors' spell-check and print-preview functions before printing a document.

\*Submit office forms such as purchase orders electronically.

\*Use durable cups, glasses, plates and utensils at work.

\*Buy reliable, long-lasting equipment for your office.

(taken from VOTER, Charleston Area LWV publication)

## Barboursville site of state LWV Convention

The West Virginia LWV state convention will be held at the Gateway Motel in Barboursville, April 30-May 1. If you like discussing issues, action, and voters service, the state convention is an exciting event. Delegates enjoy meeting and talking with League members from around the state. Please contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, if you are interested in attending the state convention. The Huntington League pays for delegate costs."

## WV Legislative tidbits . .

### As of March 3,

\*1,032 bills have been introduced in the House of Delegates of which 162 have passed the House.

\* 697 bills have been introduced in the Senate of which 129 have passed the Senate

\*35 Senate bills and 20 House bills (totaling 55) have passed both bodies and now await action of the governor.

A final summary of the Legislature's actions will be available through: [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us) or by calling 1-877-565-3447.

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.

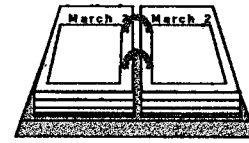
To join, send your check to : Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

# LWV

Huntington Area

# BULLETIN

Sally K. Adkins, Editor



## Calendar

**March 22,** Board Meeting

**March 29,** Annual Meeting

**April 30, May 1 - League of Women Voters of West Virginia Convention, Gateway Motel, Barboursville.**

## Outreach campaign for Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) launched

This month, the WV Healthy Kids Coalition is launching an intensive campaign to enroll children in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Because of CHIP, West Virginia is able to offer health insurance to every uninsured child whose family income is less than 150% of the federal poverty level. Families can obtain an application by calling the Family Matters hotline at 1-888-983-2645.

A 30 minute training workshop is now available to public and private organizations on CHIP outreach. The workshop answers the following questions:

What is CHIP?

Why is enrollment so important?

Who is eligible?

What services are covered?

How do families apply?

What can my organization do to help?

To schedule a workshop, call Julie Pratt at 304-344-1673. (from WV Healthy Kids Coalition publication, March 1, 1999.)

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