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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 1990-1999

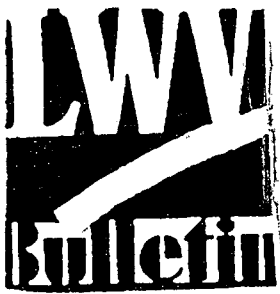
League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

9-1999

LWV Bulletin, September, 1999

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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September 1999

LWVWV WEB SITE

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

Role of U.S. in international community topic of September LWV meeting

On September 27, 7:30 p.m., Dr. Clair Matz will speak on the topic "US Foreign Policy in the New Millennium". The meeting will be sponsored jointly by the League and AAUW at the Woodlands Retirement Center. Dr. Matz, Professor of Political Science at Marshall University, teaches predominantly about international politics. He has the facility to explain complicated subjects so that his audience can understand the issues.

After WW II, American leaders took an active role in shaping international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and, many other agencies which provided stability in global affairs for the next 45 years.

Many of those institutions are now in need of revision and modernization to manage world problems as we enter the next millennium. However, now the U.S. is more reticent to take the lead, or even to participate, in efforts to create new international machinery. We have refused to sign the treaty creating the International Criminal Court (ICC), failed to sign the treaty to ban land mines, and are dragging our feet on reform of the IMF.

What is going on here? What can citizens do to urge our leaders to join the rest of the world in preparing for the 21st Century? Dr. Matz will talk about the role the US can play in the international community.

If you wish to eat at the Woodlands before the meeting, please call Mary Anderson, 523-2032 by Friday, September 24. The cost of the dinner is \$6.

Interesting programs scheduled for upcoming League meetings

We have some interesting programs scheduled for the fall -- check the calendar. We hope that you will find time in your busy schedules to attend our meetings. Please feel free also to invite your friends. Our meetings cover a broad range of governmental issues, sometimes to be better educated and sometimes directed towards action. We believe an informed electorate is vital to an effective democracy. If you would like to add a name to our bulletin mailing, contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

ACTION ALERTS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Speaker Hastert has stated he will bring CFR to the floor for debate the week of Sept. 13. Opponents of reform will try to derail it by offering a wide variety of amendments designed to split the bipartisan coalition that supports the Shays-Meehan bill, HR 417. Substitute bills will also be offered in attempts to defeat the legislation. Only 417 will effectively ban soft money, ensure that funding for sham issue ads is covered by election rules, and strengthen enforcement and disclosure.

Please contact Congressman Rahall, asking him to vote for HR 417 and oppose amendments. Amendments will side-track reform and undermine the bipartisan coalition supporting the bill. Also forward this message to friends and relatives asking them to contact their member of the House of Representatives.

Contact Congressman Rahall at 2307 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC, 20515; email - nrahall@mail.house.gov
FAX - 202-225-7856; or phone - 202-225-3452.

For additional information on Campaign Finance reform, go to the League of Women Voters' website, www.lwv.org. Click on What's New. Also <http://thomas.loc.gov>

BLACKWATER NATIONAL PARK

Contact Senator Byrd, asking him to allocate funds for a National Park Service Special Resource Study of the Potential Blackwater Canyon National Park.

The Blackwater Canyon is a special West Virginia (and Eastern United States) resource which we should not allow to deteriorate. The present owner of the property is harvesting trees and may build condominiums on the site. Blackwater Canyon is incomparable for its esthetics, recreation, and wildlife. Its closeness to populated areas makes it a viable place for attracting visitors. Because it would be located near other special areas such as Dolly Sods and the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge as well as the state parks, the national park would attract people for a number of days. Ecotourism would enhance the long term economic benefits for Tucker County far more than harvesting trees.

Contact Senator Byrd at 311 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510; Phone - (202) 224-3954;
Email senator_byrd@byrd.senate.gov

Action taken with Congress this summer

Support for full funding for the UN; opposition to a weakening wetlands rider to an appropriations bill; and opposition to a weakening rider on Combined Sewer Overflows.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VOTERS SERVICE

Terri Waldeck resigned as Voters Service Chair because she is attending law school. Voters Service jobs are some of the most rewarding in the League because they are directly connected to the public. We are asking for volunteers to serve on a Voters Service committee so that the different responsibilities can be apportioned around instead of expecting one person to do the major share of the work. Some of the jobs will be -- registration to vote, liaison with the public schools, sending out letters to candidates, helping with candidates meetings, Get Out The Vote activities, election day call in service, etc. If you would like to help, please contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287 or gibbins@marshall.edu .

PROJECT IMPACT

Cabell County received federal funds to improve its readiness to withstand disasters. Some of the specific activities which will be implemented are:

*Geographic Information System - Build maps with the data layers that will enable officials, developers, planners, mortgage companies, insurance agents, floodplain administrators, and citizens to identify floodplains.

*Hazard Analysis Planning - Conduct a hazard analysis plan

*Land Use Mitigation - Review requests for land use initiatives in Cabell County and its municipalities and implement a zoning and unified building permit process.

*Public Information, Education, Training, and Outreach

*Partnership and Resource Development - Networking and technical assistance sharing on floodplain management, floodproofing, floodplain enforcement, and early warning systems.

Thank you to Frances Huddleston who did most of the work on "Summer Fun", to those who helped distribute "Summer Fun" to the schools, libraries, and agencies -- Frances Huddleston, Rose Riter, Bernice Steirn, Doris Johnson, and Helen Gibbins and to Jane Husted and Nancy Taylor for staffing a registration table at Women's Equality Day.

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.

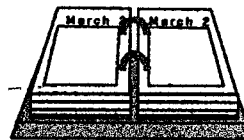
To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

LWV Huntington Area

BULLETIN

Sally K. Adkins, Editor

Calendar



Huntington
LWV

September 20 11:30 am, Board Meeting, Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church

September 27 7:30 pm, Clair Matz, "US Foreign Policy in the New Millennium", Woodlands Retirement Center

October 18 7:30 pm, Jane Husted, "Making Sense of Social Security", Enslow Park Presbyterian Church

November 15 7-9 pm, "Running for Office", Workshop for the public

Names needed

The state board is interested in starting one or two League discussion groups in areas of West Virginia where there are no local Leagues. The target areas are Greenbrier County and the Beckley area. If you know of potential names to be contacted by the state board, please call Helen Gibbins at 736-3287 or email at gibbins@marshall.edu.

2000 Census

A correct count will be important for our area. The census determines the political representation among the states and financial assistance for roads, hospitals, housing, schools, etc. It helps communities plan for the future including the areas of child care, education, health services, and recreation. The city of Huntington appointed a task force to ensure an accurate count.

Those interested in working for the census may contact a toll free number - 1-888-325-7733..

Welcome . . . Gloria Peek-Rosenblum to membership in the Huntington Area LWV.

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