

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 2000-2009

League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

3-2000

LWV Bulletin, March, 2000

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/lowv_newletter_2000_2009



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

March 2000

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting will be on Monday March 27, 6 p.m. at Heritage Station. Those attending will order from the menu. Guests are welcome.

Our speaker, Patricia Keller, is one of our county's family law masters. Family law masters manage divorce hearings, child support obligations and other domestic relations matters. Their staff also includes case managers and assistants. The full time family law positions with expanded duties were created under a law that passed the Legislature May 20, 1999.

Keller was appointed a family law master by the circuit court judges after practicing family law for years in Huntington. She is one of two in Huntington.

At the annual meeting we will adopt a budget, the program, and bylaws; and elect officers. Please review the annual meeting information in this bulletin before you attend the meeting.

ACTION

We sent a letter to Congressman Rahall asking him **not** to support HR 3520, a bill which will further delay cleaning up pollution that comes from Combined Sewers Overflows. A combined sewer system carries both sewage and stormwater runoff. Normally, its entire flow goes to a waste treatment plant, but during a heavy storm, the volume of water may be so great as to cause overflows of untreated mixtures of stormwater and sewage into receiving waters. Stormwater runoff may also carry toxic chemicals from industrial areas, streets, or yards. The country has been working towards solving these problems. HR 3520 delays this process.

EARTH DAY

On March 19 Marshall University is planning an Earth Day celebration with displays, activities, and music on the Plaza. The League will set up a table there. One of our focuses will be showing Cabell Countians the new process of voting. Volunteers are needed. Call Helen, 736-3287, if you can help.

Welcome new members Marilyn Hollandsworth and Patricia Keller.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Marcia Daoust and Mary Anderson

The Huntington League's bylaws limit a president to two consecutive terms, which Helen Gibbins is now completing. The nominating committee was unable to find a nominee for president of the Huntington Area League for the 2000-02 term; however, several persons indicated a willingness to serve as president in the future. Our hope is that, at the annual meeting, a member will be willing to volunteer for this position. Helen Gibbins has indicated her willingness to help the president anyway he/she would wish.

For those who may be interested in serving, we list the responsibilities of the president:

1. Prepare and mail agendas for board meetings;
2. Conduct the board meetings or appoint someone to conduct the meeting when the president is absent;
3. Work with the board to accomplish the objectives of the League;
4. Abstain from partisan politics during the term of the presidency.

The nominating committee is pleased with the members who have agreed to serve as officers and directors and believe that the board is an excellent one. Terms last two years. Carryover board members from last year's election include Treasurer - Ann Speer; Directors - Mary Anderson, Rose Riter, Nancy Taylor.

See the Annual Meeting page for the list of nominees.

Mark your calendars now . . .

***April 9**, 2-4; Opening of "If I'm Elected" exhibit at the Huntington Museum of Art. A roundtable discussion of those involved in the Kennedy campaign in West Virginia (David Fox, Andy Houvouras, Bob Myers) will be moderated by Bos Johnson.

The display will be of the Herald-Dispatch's coverage of presidential visits to the Tri-State area over a long period of time. The display will last from April 9- June 4.

* Meet your candidates for the Board of Education at 7 p.m. on Monday **April 17** at the Junior League Community Center, 617 9th Avenue. The session is sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, the Junior League and the Huntington Negro Business and Professional Women's Club.

Alternative Education in Cabell County

by Helen Brown, Education Chair

Alternative education was the focus of a February joint meeting of the Huntington League of Women Voters, Association of Negro Business & Professional Women and American Association of University Women. Two Cabell County administrators who are involved with at risk students and the alternative school described the Cabell County programs.

The need for alternative schools has increased over the past decade. The characteristics of a good alternative program are low student-teacher ratio, carefully selected teachers, counseling, strong leadership and strict rules.

Cabell County has two alternative programs. The day alternative school has been in operation for three years and is for expelled or dismissed students. Expelled students 16 or over are encouraged to attend this school and continue their education rather than dropping out. Attendance is compulsory for those under 16. At this time there are about 50 students. There are five teachers, one being a reading specialist, a counselor and an aid. Basic core curriculum classes of English, math, science and social studies are taught.

Some of the behaviors which cause a student to be assigned to the alternative school are habitual rule breaking, angry outbursts, striking out at other students or teachers and bringing weapons to school.

Students are assigned for a specific time as 45 days, a semester or longer. Bringing a weapon to school carries an automatic expulsion of 365 days. Following the prescribed time an evaluation of progress is made. To go back to the regular classroom the student must have regular attendance, acceptable behavior and passing grades.

The evening program is two years old and serves students for whom regular day classes are not viable. Some have day jobs. Some dropped out and do better returning to smaller classes. Day students who need to make up a credit can get it here and graduate with their class. About 130 students are enrolled and there are 9 teachers. This program is funded by a federal grant. Transportation is not provided to either alternative school.

Earned Income Credit gives boost to working families

During this tax season, we hope you will help get the word out about the Earned Income Credit, or EIC. The EIC is a special tax benefit for working people with low to moderate incomes.

Earned Income Credits apply to working people, with or without children. People who worked anytime in 1999 may get back:

*Up to \$3,816 if they have two or more children and earned less than \$30,580, or

*Up to \$2,312 if they have one child and earned less than \$26,928, or

*Up to \$347 if they have no children and earned less than \$10,200.

People may receive money back from the IRS even if they don't owe taxes, but they must file a tax return. Free assistance in completing tax forms is available from trained volunteers throughout the state. To find the nearest location for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. (This information provided by American Friends Service Committee, WV Economic Justice Project)

BELJING + 5: The Voices of Women

Around the world, preparations are under way for the June 2000 five-year review of the 1995 Beijing UN 4th World Conference on Women. Through regional meetings, online dialogues and written reports, an evaluation is taking shape of what governments have done to fulfill the commitments made at Beijing to improve the status of women and girls. There are two perspectives: the member states' own review of what they have done (their National Plans of Action,) and the nongovernmental organizations' (NGOs) and individuals' evaluation of the state of women and girls in their societies.

This first report on Beijing + 5 will reflect some of the concerns voiced by women. In online dialogues, women have responded to questions posted by "Women Watch, United Nations" about the 12 Critical Areas in the Beijing Platform for Action. One message illustrates how the Beijing Platform for Action has served as an engine for informing the world about women's and girls' issues and energizing the movement for change.

"The Beijing Platform for Action recognizes that in many countries the girl child continues to face discrimination from the earliest stages of life, through childhood and into adulthood. The Platform argues that due to this discriminatory environment, girls often receive limited opportunities for education and consequently lack the knowledge and skills needed to advance their status in society. The Beijing Platform was a big step forward. Yet, the gap between commitments and actions remains large. Many governments did not directly address the issues of the girl child in their national Action Plans. . . . Girls must be seen not only as children who need protection, but also as human beings who are entitled to all opportunities to develop to their full potential."

In the 1998 report of the NGO Working Group on Girls, "Clearing a Path for Girls: Report from the Field on Progress Since Beijing," education was identified as a high priority by respondents from 86 countries. According to the report, good progress was being made and some government money was being spent on improving school enrollment. However, the primary school retention rate was decreasing, with girls dropping out of school for all kinds of reasons. The report identified a clear need for more networking and coalition building at the local and national levels to highlight this issue, to ask governments why girls are not staying in school and to pressure them to honor their commitments made at Beijing.

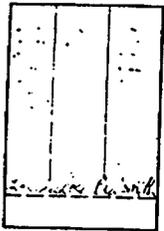
The full report is on the website:

<http://secretary.state.gov/www/iacw/index.html>.

(excerpts from an article by Margery Cohen, UN Observer, LWVUS).



Before you vote---



Make sure both poll clerks signed the bottom of the ballot. If they didn't, go back to the poll clerks NOW, or your ballot may not be counted. (Challenged ballots are not signed.)



Use a No. 2 pencil provided to mark your ballot.

Voting---

JAMES

Mark your choices clearly by filling in the oval.

If you change your mind after you've made a mark, cross out both the mark and the candidate's name or ask for a new ballot.

~~JOHN~~

ALICE

School Board
(Vote for TWO)

ANN

BOB

CAROL

DAN

Don't vote for more candidates than the instructions for an office allow.

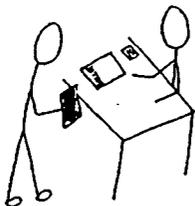
STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET

- MUGWUMP
- BULL MOOSE
- GREEN

Voting a straight ticket in a GENERAL election: If you wish to vote for a candidate of another party, follow these instructions:

1. Mark your party choice in the proper oval.
2. Mark any candidate you've chosen from another party.
3. If your "other party" choice is in a race which says "vote for two" (or more), mark all of your choices in that race, even those in your party.

If you spoil your ballot, take it back to the poll clerks. They will mark it "spoiled" and give you a new ballot.



SHARON

MALCOLM

Carol Smith
WRITE-IN, IF ANY

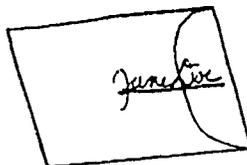
If you want to vote for a certified write-in candidate, write the name in the space provided under that office and fill in the oval beside the name.

When you finish voting---



If your ballot HAS NOT BEEN CHALLENGED, place your ballot in the secrecy sleeve and take it to a commissioner with the poll slip stub. Don't leave until they drop it in. No one has a right to see how you voted.

If your ballot HAS BEEN CHALLENGED, return it to the poll clerks. They will place it in an envelope and seal it. YOU MUST SIGN ACROSS THE SEAL. The front of the envelope gives your name, the reason for the challenge, and the signatures of the poll clerks.



Volunteers needed to educate community on new voting process

Because the city of Huntington's election was added to the year we vote for president, the additional ballots made it impossible to use the punch card method of voting. Therefore, the county adopted the new Optical Scanner method.

Enclosed with this mailing is a sheet explaining how to vote. Please share this with friends and acquaintances. You may wish to display it on bulletin boards. In addition the League has been asked to help the county clerk's office explain the new process during voter registration events. We will need volunteers for this project -- contact Helen Gibbins, 736-3287 or gibbins@marshall.edu, if you can help. The League hopes that most voters will be educated about the process before the election.

Some other information you need to know:

- * If you should vote for too many people, draw an x through the one/s you did not mean to vote for. The scanner will reject votes for too many people, but your x will show that you meant to vote for the other person/s. Or you may return your ballot to the poll clerks who will write "spoiled" on the ballot, and give you a new ballot.
- * The poll workers will take the boxes full of ballots to the courthouse where the scanner will count them.
- * The paper ballot may have names on both sides of the paper so be sure to turn it over and vote on both sides.
- * When you have finished voting, place the ballot/s in the secrecy sleeve (a plastic device). You will give your ballot, in the secrecy sleeve, to the poll workers. They will insert the sleeve into the ballot box, without being able to see your ballot.
- * Do not tear off the piece at the bottom of the ballot. This piece is numbered and must have been signed by the poll clerks. The poll workers will tear this piece off before placing your ballot in the box. This is one of the guards against fraud.

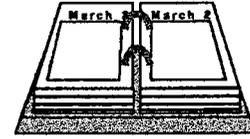
The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

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

LWV Huntington Area

BULLETIN

Sally K. Adkins, Editor



- March 20** 11:30 a.m. Board meeting; Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.
- March 27** 6 p.m. Annual meeting; Heritage Station; Speaker - Patricia Keller, Family Law Master.
- April 17** 7 p.m. Meet the Candidates for the Board of Education; Junior League Community Center.
- April 9** 2-4 p.m. opening of "If I Am Elected" exhibit at the Huntington Museum of Art.
- April 19** noon-3 p.m. Earth Day, Marshall University.
- April 19** 7-9 p.m. Gubernatorial Forum, Marshall University.
- May 4** 7 p.m. at the Junior League Community Center. South Side Neighborhood Organization.
- May 6** WV League Council; 10 a.m., Fairmont Holiday Inn.

Locating Bill Status

The Legislature's website now includes full bill content and bill status. To track legislation electronically, use www.legis.state.wv.us and click on bill status.

For those of you who may know someone who would like to receive a copy of legislation in braille, the Legislature can now accommodate their needs. Use the toll-free line to request a copy of a bill at 1-877-56-LEGIS.

To follow the legislative process to its completion on March 11, 2000, keep in touch via the legislative website, the toll-free number and public television.

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Huntington, WV
Permit 39

Helen Gibbins
6128 Gideon Rd.
Huntington, WV 25705

printed on recycled paper