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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
Area Bulletin 1980-1989

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### Huntington League of Women Voters, November 28, 1980

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

November 28, 1980

## C A L E N D A R

December 2 - 9:15 a.m. EDUCATION UNIT MEETING -- Competency Testing  
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Green Oak Drive and  
Norway Ave. -- Babysitting available.

3 - 7:30 p.m. EDUCATION UNIT MEETING -- Competency Testing  
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Green Oak Drive and  
Norway Ave. -- no babysitting

PUBLIC INVITED. . . INFORMATION. . . DISCUSSION. . . CONSENSUS. . .

In January watch for dates on the public information MIDDLE SCHOOL MEETING and  
EVENING WITH THE LEGISLATORS.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

How many of you are familiar with the "Middle School Concept?" If you feel you need more explanation of this idea before you can form an opinion, you are not alone. The Huntington Area League of Women Voters was invited to moderate the middle school public hearings in October and November, sponsored by the Cabell County Education Association. The purpose of the hearings was:

1. to provide a system through which the public may express their reactions to a proposed school reorganization plan. (4 year high school; 6, 7, 8 middle school, and K-5 grade school); and
2. to present testimony and written comments to the Board of Education for their consideration.

Although attendance was sparse, Susan Adams, moderator of the hearings and other League members who attended, found them very educational. . . not only in the various explanations of "middle school" but observation of different segments of our community offering differing points of view. But the over-riding concern voiced through the hearings was that the public is not well enough informed to offer an opinion about the desirability of a new system of reorganization in the schools. League plans to respond to that concern by holding a public information meeting in January for the community. You will be called upon to contribute some time and energy to this new project.

. . . Janice McNearney

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Janice McNearney, President  
2965 Staunton Road  
Huntington, WV 25702  
522-8150

Lila Thompson, Treasurer  
2738 Washington Blvd.  
Huntington, WV 25705  
522-3792

Margaret Gerke, Editor  
1805 Wiltshire Blvd.  
Huntington, WV 25701  
529-4345

## ACTION ALERT REQUEST FOR LETTERS CONCERNING SUPERFUND . . . . .

Letters are needed to Senator Byrd and Senator Randolph supporting passage of the LWV preferred Superfund Bill S.1480. These letters are crucial to keep the bill from being killed in the Senate as is being predicted by the news media.

LWVUS supports S.1480 because it includes:

1. Strict, joint and several liability.
2. Fees levied on industries rather than using government revenues.
3. Spills of oil and hazardous material in addition to hazardous waste dumps.

Our senators' addresses are:

|                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Senator Jennings Randolph | Senator Robert C. Byrd |
| Room 5121                 | 133 Russell Building   |
| New Senator Building      | U.S. Senate            |
| U.S. Senate               | Washington, D.C. 20510 |
| Washington, D.C. 20510    |                        |

## HAZARDOUS WASTE SUPERFUND BACKGROUND

With alarming frequency, chemical pollution crises are making the headlines. The Love Canal tragedy and a rash of other incidents across the country attest to the fact that hazardous waste pollution, if not fully dealt with, will have critical implications for this and future generations.

But there is a way to begin tackling this growing environmental crisis, one that is already taking on the proportions of an epidemic. A critical step toward solving the problem rests with passage of "Superfund" legislation. This legislation would create a fund to pay for the cleanup and containment of hazardous chemicals. A number of Superfund proposals are now pending. All of these bills, despite important differences, are unified by a simple underlying philosophy: those who are responsible for pollution should be responsible for its damages.

Monetary damages recovered from polluters would provide a major source of revenue for the Superfund in addition to the fees obtained from industry. This money from damages would be returned to the fund, thus ensuring that those who actually contribute to hazardous waste pollution are held liable for cleanup costs. It will also guarantee that the Superfund is not rapidly depleted.

--- Marcia Daoust, 529-4406

EDUCATION UNITS: Competency Testing

Help us spread the word! The education committee will be presenting its unit meetings on competency testing December 2 and 3.

When are students tested? What do you do with the results? How are these tests financed? Who sets the standards? We will discuss these questions plus finding out where West Virginia stands on the issue. Please try to come. Your opinion is important. PLEASE BRING THIS COPY OF THE BULLETIN . . cont'd.

EDUCATION CONSENSUS QUESTIONS....Please bring this sheet to Unit Meeting

1. Is there a body of information each pupil should master? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If the answer is YES, choose one of the following:

- a. Basic skills: reading, writing, and computation.
  - b. Basic skills as applied to life skills.
  - c. Social studies, general science, in addition to basic skills
  - d. All the subjects in the school's curriculum.
  - e. Other. Specify.
2. Who should decide what skills are minimally necessary and set standards for them?
- a. State legislature?
  - b. State board of education/state department of education?
  - c. Local school boards?
  - d. Other? Specify.
3. Do you want a minimum competency program in West Virginia? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
- If YES, choose one of the following:
- a. Minimum competency program separate from the required state testing program.
  - b. A minimum competency testing adapted from the state norm-referenced test.  
(Comprehensive test of basic skills.)
  - c. Other. Specify.
4. If a minimum competency program is required in West Virginia, how should it be financed?
- a. State funds?
  - b. Local funds?
  - c. State-local combination?
  - d. Other? Specify.
5. Who should develop the test?
- a. Test publishers?
  - b. County school boards?
  - c. State department of education?
  - d. Other? Specify.
6. Should the test developer be required to validate the test? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
7. What should be done with children who are physically or mentally handicapped to such a degree as to be unable to participate in the regular testing program?  
(More than one choice is possible unless they are conflicting.)
- a. Waive testing requirements
  - b. Allow them to proceed at their own speed.
  - c. Design special minimum competency tests for them?
  - d. Deny diploma?
  - e. Grant a diploma which states that it is a certificate of attendance.
  - f. Design special vocational programs?
  - g. Work with parents; teach them how to help their children at home?
  - h. Other? Specify.

8. When should students be tested in a minimum competency program?
- Grade 9 and until mastery in the specified skill is achieved?
  - Grade 8 and until mastery in the specified skill is achieved?
  - Once in grade school, junior high, and high school?
  - Other? Specify.
9. Would you favor using minimum competency tests' results for: (More than one answer is acceptable unless they are conflicting.)
- Diagnostic purpose, i.e., correcting curriculum, teaching techniques, and for identifying students' weaknesses?
  - Remedial, i.e., helping students overcome academic weaknesses?
  - Promotion to the next grade?
  - Requirement for graduation?
  - Certificate of competence in addition to diploma?
  - Working with parents, teaching them how to help their children at home?
  - Other? Specify.

**G L O S S A R Y:** Terms for use with Pupil Evaluation in West Virginia

**ACHIEVEMENT TEST.** Measures what a student has learned, achieved or mastered in a subject area.

**ASSESSMENT.** A measurement of the current status in order to evaluate.

**BASIC SKILLS.** Reading, writing, and arithmetic such as number concepts, reading for the main idea, simple punctuation, etc.

**COMPETENCY BASED EDUCATION.** High school graduation, or the granting of a regular high school diploma is tied to minimum competency testing.

**COMPREHENSIVE TEST OF BASIC SKILLS** is an achievement test used in the State-County Testing Program.

**CRITERION-REFERENCED TESTS** are designed to provide precise information on what a pupil has or has not learned to do in a particular subject. Teacher-made tests are an example.

**CURRICULAR VALIDITY** establishes the correspondence between the content of a test and the content of the course for which the test is used.

**FIELD TESTING.** While developing a test for a sample of subjects, it is administered for the purpose of gaining knowledge about the test questions.

**FUNCTIONAL ILLITERACY.** The ability to read, write and compute at approximately the 4th grade level.

**FUNCTIONAL LITERACY.** There are 3 types of literacy. Being able to read, write and compute at the 3rd grade level and going no further, causes regression and illiteracy. Being able to read, write and compute at 4th to 5th grade level is sufficient to maintain that level of literacy, without advancing or regressing. Literacy at approximately the 7th grade level not only insures literacy, but enables an individual to increase his/her literacy.

**LIFE SKILLS** are basic skills applied to real life situations.

MINIMUM COMPETENCY PROGRAMS are specific popograms designed to ascertain whether or not pupils have mastered certain minimum skills needed to get along in every day situations. They also establish as a priority minimal competency in the basic skills.

NORM-REFERENCED TESTS are achievement tests (and test many different levels of a student's performance, not just minimum. They tell how well a student performed compared to other students.

PHASE-IN PERIOD. Time allowed, prior to testing, for the introduction and learning of new learning objectives by students.

STANDARDIZED TEST is one which has (1) prescribed directions for administering the test, (2) precise rules for scoring, (3) norms (averages) for interpreting scores.

VALIDITY. The degree to which a test measures what it is intended to measure.

. . . Susan Adams, 736-2001

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VOTER SERVICE REPORT

Voter Service was active again—excellent work by a lot of members. I especially appreciate Kathleen Gross's work on TV and radio planning. Anne Lazenby's newspaper voter's guide, Kitty Hensley's Election Day Call-In Service (with help from Vivian Phares), Diane Coe's election laws and voting device and Janice McNearney's fine hand in everything. Many other people participated in small and large ways. We must again thank the Herald-Dispatch (especially Don Hatfield and Fran Allred) for their best-ever voter's guide (at least that's what Don Hatfield said on election night).

The staff at WOWK-TV was again especially helpful in the Call-In and in allowing regular appearances, which we intend to continue year-round. We also worked with WSAZ-TV and radio stations WEMM (taped spots), WCNT (Crosstalk) and others.

I think we did a good job in many areas and as always could do better. We will have another opportunity on a smaller scale in June with Huntington City Council election.

The Call-In Tally totaled 195 calls. In addition, I received 10 calls at home the day before the election, relayed by the telephone operator at Channel 13. Our number there is remembered and used between elections, according to longtime operator Ruth Damron.

. . . Betty Barrett, 525-5908

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HAPPY TO RE-INSTATE MEMBERS and make some corrections:

Lloyd, Martha Ellen  
1846 12th Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
529-0872

Chambers, Robert Co., Atty.  
420 8th Street  
Huntington, WV 25701  
529-4571

Please change ZIPCODES: Charles Kincaid to 25712  
Nancy Matthews to 25701

Thank you for bringing these zipcodes to our attention.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU, to all our League friends who helped us celebrate our Fiftieth. THE PARTY made us feel especially honored and your many good wishes are sincerely appreciated.

Dave and Lila Thompson

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BRIEFLY...

To be on the West Virginia Women's Commission mailing list, call 348-0070.

FOR SALE: LWV Vote Mugs - made of West Virginia glass, heat and dishwasher proof. Attractive and inexpensive (\$2). For thank-you or Christmas gifts. Remember your youngster's teacher, your college student, home-bound relative, thoughtful neighbor, and yourself. Buy yours from Lila Thompson, 522-3792.

League Publications:

West Virginia Business Taxes - MUST reading for taxation consensus in February! \$3.50.

Education: Pupil Evaluation in W.Va. - Information on Pupil Competency testing. \$2.

West Virginia Government Pamphlets - Legislative, Administrative, Judicial. 3/\$1.

Order from Publications Chairman - Margaret Gerke, 529-4345.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL!

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
2738 Washington Blvd.  
Huntington, W.Va. 25705

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EDUCATION CONSENSUS inside: If unable to attend meetings, mail completed sheets to Susan Adams before Dec. 10th

