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Area Bulletin

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MAY, 1971

Mrs. D. C. Carlson, President
2009 N. Englewood Rd., 523-5838

Mrs. George Hartman, Editor
6224 Brenda Court, 736-5790

C A L E N D A R

- June 1 9:30 a.m. Study of Congress unit meeting, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, babysitter provided.
- June 2 7:30 p.m. Study of Congress unit meeting, at Nancy Adam's, 926 - 11th Ave.
- June 10 9:30 a.m. Board meeting at Sue Carlson's, 2009 N. Englewood Rd. Orientation for new board members.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Joseph V. Horn
Mrs. Clair W. Matz

531 - 9th Ave. 525-6574
101 Cheyenne Trail, Ona 736-8256

DUES! ! !

May we remind you again that your 1971-72 dues were due April 1st? If you haven't taken care of them yet, please try to do so before summer starts. Send them to:

Mrs. David Thompson
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, W.Va. 25705

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Board has appointed two new study unit chairmen. Betty Bishop will head the strip mining study and Sara Kelly will take Judiciary Reform.

CONSENSUS ON W. VA. LEGISLATURE STUDY - RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. What specific changes, if any, should be made in the committee organization procedures?

It was agreed by the majority that the Speaker should make appointments of chairmen to the committees. A small minority felt that committee members should elect the chairman. Chairmen by seniority was highly disapproved. Majority consensus was that a priority system of some kind would facilitate the reporting of bills to the floor, and it is recommended that this aspect be further studied. It was also agreed that a further reduction in the number of committees be made. It was agreed by a majority that the committees should have more diversified representation. Some members felt that the Attorney General should rule on the eligibility of public school teachers serving in the Legislature, and that a consistent policy should be in effect regarding the eligibility for all legislative members. Complete records (perhaps by microfilm) of committee meetings should be kept if economically feasible. A strong minority did not agree, feeling that public attendance and complete records would prohibit frank and candid discussion of legislation.

2. What specific changes, if any, should be made in the conduct of committees?

A majority were in favor of public access to meetings, hearing procedures and committee voting records. A strong minority did not favor public access to all committee meetings. All agreed on adequate public notice to hearings, at least 24 hours, as well as personal notice to persons who had requested that they be notified. It was agreed that special hearing rooms be provided instead of the Senate and House chambers. An equitable amount of time should be given all witnesses to present their viewpoint.

3. Should voice votes be permitted on the passage of bills or should roll call votes be required?

It was the consensus that roll call votes be required on the passage of all bills.

4. Should records of proceedings and debates be made more available to the public? If yes, list particular records that should be made more available?

Yes. A majority agreed that a legislator need not be consulted about his statements being made public. Debates and speeches should be made available for a nominal fee. The morning group felt that resolutions and petitions of gratuity could be left out of the journal, while the evening group felt they should be retained, if only by title.

5. Should any changes be made in the procedures for the enactment of legislation. Be specific.

We concur with Citizens Advisory Commission for Strengthening the W.Va. Legislature that "the accepted practice of placing explanatory notes on bills be provided for formally by the Legislature by adoption of a joint rule, and that the established practice of underlining new language or additions to existing laws in bills be provided for by proper rule or included in a bill drafting manual approved and adopted by both houses."

CONSENSUS ON W. VA. LEGISLATURE STUDY (cont.)

6. Should constitutional provisions and rules generally achieve a balance between the needs of public information and the efficient operation of the Legislature?

Yes

7. List any other changes in legislative procedure you feel would be desirable.

It was agreed that the Legislative services should be made a statutory body, and that members should come under civil service or other similar body setting up qualifications, etc. Adequate clerical service and office space should be provided the legislators. Pre-filing of bills (which would require a constitutional change) would give legislators much needed time to study the bills before the 2nd and 3rd readings.

A majority felt that the Special Calendar should be abolished, allowing each bill to stand on its own merits. This would greatly lessen the power of the Rules Committee. However, a strong minority felt that the Special Calendar itself was a form of priority and should be retained.

RESUME' OF REGULAR SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE

CIVIL SERVICE: No legislation relating to civil service was passed.

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: No resolution or legislation passed. Joint Committee on Government and Finance will study city and county governments during the coming year.

EDUCATION: A new school aid formula was enacted. Will allocate state education funds on a more equitable basis consistent with the limitations of local financing. Also provides for school personnel salary increases and transfers duties of Board of School Finance to State Board of Education. S122.
A bill permitting school districts to pay tuition for students attending schools in other districts was passed and will allow all participating counties to contribute to the support of area vocational schools. S100
Persons over 21 will now have a limited right to attend public schools. S130.
Appropriations were increased for the Property Appraisal Division of the State Tax Dept. and the Vocational Education Division of the Dept. of Education.

ELECTIONS LAWS: A bill requiring that the entrance of the absentee voting booth be in public view and prohibiting the display of campaign material in the offices of the circuit clerks was passed. H962.

HOUSING: Amendments to the Human Rights Act were passed, prohibiting discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of all housing, except rooming houses with 4 or less rooms to rent; adding age and sex as reasons for which discrimination is prohibited in employment and public accommodations; prohibiting discrimination by employers of 12 or more employees; authorizing the establishment of one branch office of the Human Rights Commission; and allowing the employment of a lawyer as a trial examiner. H589.

(4)

RESUME' OF LEGISLATURE (cont.)

WATER: The comprehensive water use bill (H684) was not passed. A bill permitting a city-county health department to exercise jurisdiction over the part of the city which is in a nonparticipating county was passed. S187.

WELFARE: No legislation passed. An appropriation of \$10 million over the current year was approved.

"TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD"

A WMUL production, this program about the proposed hydro-electric dam on the Black-water River in the Canaan Valley will be re-broadcast by WCHS on May 30 at 2:00 p.m. Well worth your time! Do try to watch.it. .

MRS. GEORGE HARTMAN
6224 BRENDA COURT
HUNTINGTON, W. VA. 25705



Mrs. G. Robert Nugent
760 Mountain View Place
Morgantown, W.Va. 26505