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Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin, October, 1971

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

October, 1971

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

Mrs. T. Bauserman, Editor
616 S. Terrace, 522-3052

C A L E N D A R

- Oct. 13 Co-See Tour of Strip Mines. Meet at Civic Center, Charleston, W. Va., 9:00 A.M., to take bus to the Montgomery area. Call Betty Bishop, 736-7420. Bring box lunch.
- 19 Strip Mining Unit. St. John's Episcopal Church, Wallace Circle & Wash. Blvd. Baby sitter & parking provided. 9:30 A.M.
- 20 Strip Mining Unit. Mary Lee Watts, 1107 Tenth Ave., 7:30 P.M.
- 26 Local Board Meeting. Sharon Nelson, 1635 Crestmont Drive, 9:30 A.M.
- Nov. 2 Strip Mining Consensus Unit. St. John's Episcopal Church, 9:30 A.M.
- 3 Strip Mining Consensus Unit. Beth Bauserman, 616 South Terrace, 7:30 P.M.
- 18 General Meeting. "International Monetary System with a Political Emphasis". Dr. Clair W. Matz, Jr., guest speaker. Joyce Levy, 599 Thirteenth Ave., 8:00 P.M. Husbands and guests are especially invited.
- Dec. 7 Evening with Legislators. Joan Weisberg, 1505 McCoy Rd., 8:00 P.M.

League welcomes the following new members:

Mrs. Edgar O. Barrett (Betty), 408 Eleventh Ave., 25701	525-5908
Mrs. Ernest Broadwater (Linda), 1803 Woodmont Rd., 25701	525-2139
Mrs. A. R. Chambery, (Eileen), 3041 McCoy Rd., 25701	523-4150
Mrs. David Cusick (Nicky), 3352 Eighth Street Rd., 25701	522-2132
Mrs. Terry Dennis (Laurie), 175 Iroquois Trail, Ona, W. Va., 25545	736-8010
Mrs. Richard Gessner (Alice), 2672 Guyan Ave., 25702	525-2250
Mrs. Nye King (Shelvia), 2918 Third Ave., 25702	522-7402
Mrs. Carleton R. Mabley, Jr., (Virginia), 812 Thirteenth Ave., 25701	522-3443
Mrs. Vivian Phares, 1034 1/2 Tenth Ave., 25701	522-8735
Miss Nancy Taylor, "Homewood", Kennon Lane, 25701	522-3361
Mrs. Donald J. Tallack (Carolyn), 214 W. Eleventh Ave., 25701	525-9773

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

News from the Board

The Portsmouth, Ohio League of Women Voters, sometime in the near future, will be sponsoring the Air Quality Workshop for our Air Quality Control region which includes Huntington. The Huntington League will cooperate with them in publicizing the event. The workshop will prepare citizens to attend the public hearings necessary before the Federal Air Quality Standards are adopted.

Look for further announcements.

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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

A skit, exploring the myths and facts of welfare, has been written by Joan Bassford. The program lasts for five to ten minutes and is suitable for P. T. A., church, or other community clubs. Keep it in mind for your other club programs.

Those of you, who worked so hard on the Human Rights Commission Ordinance a few years past, will be interested to know that Nancy Matthews wrote her M. S. thesis on the subject. She aptly titled it "A Study in Non-Decision: The Human Rights Commission". If you ask her nicely, maybe she will let you read it.

A cry of help comes from Helen Gibbins, Voter Service chairman, and Janet Graver, Election Laws chairman. Voter registration information for in-state and out-of-state students will be given on the Marshall campus. People are needed to work at the information tables. Your homework has been done for you. You will not have to spend hours in preparation. So, call Helen or Janet to tell them you will come. 736-5834 or 736-3287.

Edna Duckworth and Kathleen Kowalski will be attending the Campus-Community meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to further communication between Marshall students and the community. It is sponsored jointly by the city council and the Campus Christian Center.

Nancy Matthews is serving on the National League of Women Voters Organization Committee. This is the first time the Huntington League has had a member serve on a national committee.

Helen Gibbins, State Election Laws chairman, attended the national regional workshop on Voter Service for State Board members on October 6 and 7.

The Huntington League is contributing several of its members to the State Board: Lila Thompson, State Bulletin; Nancy Matthews, Organization; and Helen Gibbins, Election Laws. Two members have recently completed terms: Sue Carson, Election Laws; and Kathleen Kowalski, Finance.

&
 & STEPS FOR WORKING ON LWV PROGRAMS AT ALL LEVELS &
 &
 & 1. STUDY, after which &
 &
 & 2. CONSENSUS may be reached. &
 &
 & 3. ACTION then is taken by: &
 &
 & a. Informing the membership. &
 & b. Informing the public. &
 & c. Working for changes in legislation &
 & or for new legislation. &
 &
 &

The following consensus was the result of a study by all Leagues in West Virginia and a pooling of their local consensuses to form a state consensus.

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
 State LWV Consensus Statement

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia supports changes in the rules and procedures of the West Virginia Legislature which would promote greater public access to legislative proceedings and records, including roll call votes, and recommends that adequate supportive services be provided for the Legislature.

Guidelines:

The study of the Legislature--Rules and Procedures consensus position includes support of:

1. Requiring roll call votes on the passage of bills and definite committee action.
2. Requiring that generally committee meetings be held open to the public and that records of their meetings be made easily available to the public.
3. Requiring adequate public notice given prior to committee hearings.
4. Requiring transcriptions of floor proceedings and making them easily available to the Legislature.
5. Making sufficient clerical help and space available to the Legislature.
6. Further reduction of the number of legislative committees.
7. The present method of assigning committee membership.

--Mrs. Thomas Chambers
 State Board Chairman
 West Virginia Legislature

ACTION PRIORITIES FOR 1971-1972

State judicial reform and welfare reform are the top action priorities for the year.

The League feels that if judicial reform is to become a reality, an amendment to the Judiciary Article of the West Virginia Constitution should be on the ballot in November, 1972.

Welfare reform is the LWVUS number one priority for 1971-1972. A Welfare Reform bill has passed the House of Representatives. The League does not agree with all the provisions in the bill but will work in the Senate to improve it.

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GUNG HO! WELFARE REFORM

Yes, we studied reform and the House passed a modified bill including some of the things League felt was needed. Now the President has suggested tabling the bill a year.

Woe! This is poor timing. A delay may result in nothing. Reform was needed yesterday!

Write today to urge the President to use his full presidential powers to achieve congressional action on welfare: e.g.,

The President
White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to urge you to use your full presidential powers to see that legislation for welfare reform be considered immediately. Welfare reform postponed now is delaying that which should have been accomplished. You have suggested it should be given number one priority. I feel that its urgency has not changed. Please! Keep it so!

Respectfully,
Madam X

This is just an example. If you use your own words, effectiveness is greatly increased.

Please, Leaguers, take five minutes of your time and eight cents to urge the President on this matter.

--Joan Bassford, Chairman, Welfare

CONCERNING THINGS YET TO COME

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* Dr. Clair W. Matz, Jr. *
* Guest Speaker *
* "International Monetary System with a Political Emphasis"
*
* November 18, 1971 *
* Joyce Levy *
* 699 Thirteenth Avenue *
* 8:00 P. M. *
*

Money! Who doesn't like money! Dr. Matz will tell how the system works, how it used to work, why it broke down, and the prospects for the future. The wage-price freeze, the ten percent surcharge on imports, the value of the dollar--all of these have an effect on you as a consumer and your husband as a businessman. Dr. Matz will give us an evening full of information and lively discussion.

Dr. Matz came to Huntington from the University of Virginia where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1970. He is presently serving Marshall University by teaching courses on international affairs, international law, and international organizations. He is particularly expert on Latin American politics.

Hire a babysitter and bring your husband. He deserves a night out.

LEAGUE LINGO

Consensus: Not a rigid majority but a significant body of opinion in favor of or opposed to specific action.

Voter Service: A year-round activity to help the individual citizen to be politically effective.

Non-partisan: The League "shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate" but urges its members to work as individuals in the party of their choice.

BISHOP WAS THERE!

North Bend Strip Mining Conference

The September 11, Environmental Quality meeting at North Bend State Park contained a section concerning strip mining. Representing the Department of Natural Resources was Mr. Benjamin Greene, Chief, Division of Reclamation. Panelists were the Rev. Richard Austin, Appalachian Strip Mining Service; Dr. Morris Mandeloff, Concerned West Virginians; Ray Ratliff, Appalachian Research and Defense Fund; and Mrs. Harriet Hales, League of Women Voters.

The following questions and answers have been condensed and are not exactly as stated by the panel participants; however, the main points have been kept intact.

When questioned on the immediate implementation of the 1971 amendment, Mr. Greene said that all new permits have been issued under the 1971 legislation; however, it is taking time to convert the old ones. The new law became effective March 31, and it was a handicap to respond immediately. New regulations will be issued in the very near future. Mr. Greene also explained that there were no blasting experts in the DNR and that they have had to rely on outside people. There will be two in the department soon. Twenty people have been added to the DNR and they will soon be able to meet the 15 day inspection requirement.

In response to a question on advertising of permits and whether the advertised acreage was strip and spoil or only stripped land, Greene replied that the advertising was implemented immediately. 814 applications were on file March 31, and these were returned so that the operators could comply with the new permit requirements and make proper advertisement. The advertisement includes the total land disturbed, not just the stripped area. Mr. Greene also said that information on violations and revocations is available to the public. From 1941 to 1967 there was only one prosecution. Since 1967, there have been 89 successful prosecutions and 417 permits revoked.

Mr. Greene was asked how he would prevent complete upturning of mountains since multiple seam mining is exempt from bench width limitations. He answered that both the amount of overburden and the 30 foot highwall were limitations to prevent this.

A panelist stated that slopes steeper than 12° cannot be completely put back. What happens to most highwalls since they are steeper than 12° ? Greene said that up to a 15° highwall could be eliminated--not returned to the original contour, but reclaimed by terracing.

Greene was questioned about the DNR position on the destruction of hardwoods since the topsoil is always lost with stripping. He responded that economically, the scale was in favor of coal. The prime objective is in quick stabilization after an area has been stripped. Hardwoods are not suitable for this purpose but quick legumes are. Mother Nature takes care of herself.

Strip Mining (Continued)

Regarding siltation, Mr. Greene said that the DNR attempted to get at the source through diversion, early stabilization and other applicable techniques. They try to minimize siltation although there always is some.

When asked about acid drainage percolating to the surface, Greene's response was that it takes three things to cause acid drainage--water, air, and pyrites. It can be prevented if covered with fill. There is no evidence that the acid will percolate back to the surface.

Greene was asked if the DNR would regulate for drainage after the operation is over and if they checked after the bond was released. He stated that acidity, stabilization and PH level had to be taken care of before the bond is released. No inspections are made until after two growing seasons.

In response to questions on the reclamation fund and orphaned lands, Greene said that from 1963 to 1971, 3,536,478 dollars was paid into the fund, with 1,317,650 dollars total disbursements. Refunds come out of the same funds. The cost estimates on orphaned lands will come from the Stanford Survey. There are 25-30,000 acres of orphaned lands. Costs are about 1,000 dollars per acre now; however, in some cases it may be much lower, depending on the ultimate objective. The criteria and priorities are: (1) the elimination of pollution, (2) stabilization, and (3) regrading. To date, 12-14,000 acres have been treated.

--Betty Bishop, Chairman, Strip Mining

BOOK NOOK

In addition to THE NATIONAL VOTER, which every member receives automatically, there are numerous league publications which are rich in information, not only for committee chairmen, but also for members in general.

In order to expand our publication service, the local league has initiated a voucher system, whereby members may borrow or purchase material for either committee or personal use.

For your convenience Nadine Wellman, Publication Chairman, will be present at the meetings and will supply you with the proper forms. After the voucher is filled, she will place your order. If the material is on display at the time, you may sign and take it immediately.

Recommended League Reading

"Facts and Issues--Reform: Does Congress Need It?", No. 693, 35 cents.

"When You Write to Washington", No. 349, 35 cents.

--Nadine Wellman
Publication Chairman