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Area Bulletin

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

March, 1972

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

- March 25 Annual Meeting. Uptowner Inn, 12 O'clock Noon. Make reservations with Mary Lee Watts or Sally Barrett in the evening. Bring your friends.
- 28 Board Meeting. Sharon Nelson, 1635 Crestmont Drive, 9:30 A.M.
- 28 Republican Women's Club Luncheon, Frederick Hotel, 12 O'clock Noon. Mr. Hagen is main speaker and candidates are guests.
- 30 Democratic Women's Club, Westmorland Grade School gymnasium, 3609 Hughes Street, Huntington, 7:00 P.M. Senator Randolph is guest speaker.
- April 4 Election Laws. St. John's Episcopal Church, 9:30 A.M., Wallace Circle & Wash. Blvd. Baby sitter & parking provided.
- 5 Election Laws. Florence Oxley, 1220 Twelfth Street, 7:30 P.M.
- 8 Last day for voter registration.
- 10 - May 5 Vote absentee ballot by mail.
- 13 & 14 State Council, Ogleby Park, Wheeling, West Virginia.
- 18 Education Unit Study of Cabell County Schools. St. John's Episcopal Church, 9:30 P.M.
- 18 Education Unit Study of Cabell County Schools. Bernice Steirn, 2030 N. Englewood Rd. (Turn off Wiltshire Blvd.) Notice change of date from Wednesday night to Tuesday night.
- 19 Meet Your Candidates for the County Court. Sponsored by LWV, B'Nai Israel Synagogue, 900 Nineth Street, 8:00 P.M.
- 20 Meet Your Candidates for the Board of Education. Sponsored by AAUW, Huntington Women's Club, 8:00 P.M.

Calendar, Continued

- April 24 - May 6 Vote absentee ballot in the Circuit Court office. (Especially convenient for those who are planning to be in the hospital, out of town, etc.)
- 25 Board Meeting. Sharon Nelson, 1635 Crestmont Drive, 9:30 A.M.
- 26 Meet Your Candidates for the Board of Education. Sponsored by LWV, B'nai Israel Synagogue, 900 Ninth Street, 8:00 P.M.
- May 1 - 5 LWV National Convention, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2 Finance Training School. St. John's Episcopal Church, 9:30 A.M.
- 9 PRIMARY ELECTIONS.
- 14 - 19 Finance week.
- 16 Baby sitting will be available for finance workers. See April bulletin.
- 23 Board Meeting. Sharon Nelson, 1635 Crestmont Drive, 9:30 A.M.
- 30 Political Participation Wrap-Up. St. John's Episcopal Church, 9:30 A.M.
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Political Accountability Rating
First Session, 92nd Congress

According to the Congressional Record and Congressional Quarterly, West Virginia congressmen and senators voted favorably for League issues as listed below:

	Percentage
Mollohan	56
Staggers	33
Slack	67
Hechler	100
Kee	44
Byrd	38
Randolph	62

Read the League pamphlet, Political Accountability Rating, No. 507, for details.

CONCERNING THINGS TO COME

Cabell County Schools

What are the goals and objectives of our school system?

Who decides what courses will be taught at your children's school?

How do our schools institute change in course offerings, methods, materials?

How is instruction supervised?

What is the status of pilot programs?

How much difference is to be found from school to school?

Such are the questions to be discussed at the first of two unit reports on the Cabell County School Survey. Curriculum and instruction at both elementary and secondary levels will be the subject of the two April 18 meetings. (Notice we are meeting Tuesday morning and Tuesday night to prevent a conflict with the Meet Your Candidates meeting.)

Save your questions on special education, vocational education and the federal programs for the June unit meetings.

--Helen Brown, Chairman
Cabell County School Survey

Fair Campaign Practices

The Fair Campaign Practices Committee, Inc., a national nonpartisan organization, has been effective in raising the ethical standards of our major campaigns. Candidates for major statewide and federal offices may voluntarily sign the fair campaign practice code typed below.

This is just one of the topics that will be discussed in the Election Law unit of April 4 and 5. Read League study book, Campaign Financing and Ethics, for further details.

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

There are basic principles of decency, honesty and fair play which every candidate for public office in the United States has a moral obligation to observe and uphold, in order that, after vigorously contested but fairly conducted campaigns, our citizens may exercise their constitutional right to a free and untrammelled choice and the will of the people may be fully and clearly expressed on the issues before the Country.

THEREFORE:

Fair Campaign, Continued

I shall conduct my campaign in the best American tradition, discussing the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with sincerity and frankness, and criticizing without fear or favor the record and policies of my opponent and his party which merit such criticism.

I shall defend and uphold the right of every qualified American voter to full and equal participation in the electoral process.

I shall condemn the use of personal vilification, character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or his personal or family life.

I shall condemn the use of campaign material of any sort which misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding any candidate, as well as the use of malicious or unfounded accusations against any candidate which aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to his loyalty and patriotism.

I shall condemn any appeal to prejudice based on race, creed, or national origin.

I shall condemn any dishonest or unethical practice which tends to corrupt or undermine our American system of free elections or which hampers or prevents the full and free expression of the will of the voters.

I shall immediately and publicly repudiate support deriving from any individual or group which resorts, on behalf of my candidacy or in opposition to that of my opponent, to the methods and tactics which I condemn.

I, the undersigned, candidate for election to public office in the United States of America, hereby endorse, subscribe to, and solemnly pledge myself to conduct my campaigns in accordance with the above principles and practices, so help me God.

Date

Signature

Candidate for

--Helen Gibbins, Chairman
Election Laws

Annual Finance Drive

Why should the community give financial support to the League?

When we go out on a finance drive, we do not ask to get anything for free. The League has something to offer in return, and contributors understand this. They give because they believe in the many and varied things we are doing and realize that they, themselves, could not afford the time and effort we are willing to put in. They understand that, financially, our members could not carry forward League's larger projects, no matter how much we, ourselves, contribute in money and countless work hours.

Do we realize the continuous values for a community in having a strong, active League in their midst?

It is a fact that even when we do not make the headlines, League is a quiet influence towards having a community stay alert and progressive; towards strengthening and broadening voter information; towards keeping the government responsive. This is the deeper reason why so many banks, businessmen, prominent individuals have the League on their list of organizations to support.

Working for a better climate in which society can live takes time and effort. The League is willing to invest in this with all it has at its command. There is not one area of our League program which does not only broaden our own knowledge and horizon, but also that of the men and women from whom we seek a contribution.

--Sue Carlson

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WHAT'S HAPPENING!

News from the Board

Planning Item

The Board prepared a statement on the proposed East Huntington bridge for the public hearing. The statement listed aspects of comprehensive planning that should be considered before the plans for the bridge are completed. These include transportation arteries as outlined by the Huntington comprehensive plan, historical preservation, preservation of parks and open spaces, impact of the bridge on existing residential areas, and traffic patterns in the vicinity.

The Board also decided to work with the Cabell-Wayne Historical Society in the preservation of some of our local stores and buildings. Martha Woodward will appreciate the volunteer help of those who enjoy this kind of work. One emphasis will be the contribution of our local black citizens in the building of the railroads and the Sixth Street bridge.

West Virginia Political Party Organization

The county is the basic unit of political organization in West Virginia. This grass roots unit which deals directly with the basic cog in the political machine, the precinct, is called the (Party) Executive Committee. The county executive committee for each political party is composed of two members, one woman and one man, elected from each of the nine city wards and each of the county magisterial districts--a total of thirty-two people--for a four-year term.

These committeemen and women, elected at the primary election by the voters registered in the Democratic or Republican party, have a variety of responsibilities, including:

- a. Recommending persons to serve as election officials during primary and general elections.
- b. Recommending persons to work as registrars for the quadriennial canvass.
- c. Establishing campaign headquarters.
- d. Recommending people to fulfill the remainder of terms of officials who have vacated an elected office. (Recent examples: House of Delegates and Park Board.)
- e. Elect the county chairman, who does not need to be a member of the committee. Members may hold public office simultaneously with party office.

Similar committee structures exist at the district and state level. The members are also elected at the primary election. The state committee is responsible for electing the members of the national committee, developing party platforms, and recommending persons to fill vacancies in office. The district committees mainly function to fill any vacancies within their jurisdiction. The various committee levels have a cooperative relationship rather than an organizational one.

Voters registered as Independents cannot participate in the election of party officers or in the party nominations for public office. Voters can participate only in the nominating process of the party in which they are registered.

County Court

The three county commissioners are elected at large for a term of six years, which are staggered so that no two commissioners are elected in the same year. Each member must be from a different magisterial district.

No charter clearly states county powers and limitations. The structure is set forth by the state constitution; and prescribed powers, functions, and salaries are set in statutes by the state legislature. In recent years state and federal laws have designated the county court as the local governing body to administer health, sanitation, anti-pollution laws, comprehensive planning and poverty programs, and others. Almost any governmental activity affecting residents

County Court, Continued

within the county involves the county court.

The primary duties include:

- a. Maintenance of law and order within the county through the sheriff's department, juvenile detention homes, jails, and foster home.
- b. Administration of finance within the county. The court levies and dispenses property taxes and approves the budgets of the county departments, including those of the county elected officials, county extension office, planning offices, and health department. The court assists in financing a number of institutions such as the Tri-State Airport, Cabell-Huntington Hospital, Cabell County Public Library, Community Mental Health Center, Green Acres, and others.
- c. Public health and welfare. Agencies responsible to the court or receiving assistance or direction from the court include the above, plus Southwestern Community Action, regional and local planning agencies, volunteer fire departments, and civil defense.
- d. Administration of justice. The court acts in probate matters and approves appointments of legal guardians.
- e. Conduct of elections. The court supervises election procedures, determines precincts and magisterial districts, appoints election officials, makes decisions regarding challenged ballots or contest proceedings.
- f. Other activities the county court has undertaken includes the area of recreation. In addition, the court has the power to hire employees of the county, appoint citizen advisory boards, and hear tax pleas from citizens who question their property assessment.

The 1972 legislature recently approved the following salaries for county officials:

Sheriff	8,400
County Clerk	12,000
Circuit Clerk	12,000
Assessor	8,200
Prosecuting Attorney	13,500
County Commissioners	9,000

Park Board

The Park Board is a bi-partisan board, consisting of three Republicans and three Democrats, who are elected at the primary election for six-year terms, which are staggered.

A charter, issued by the State of West Virginia, sets forth the responsibilities which include:

- a. Managing park property, including the cemeteries.
- b. Providing recreational facilities.
- c. Maintenance of streets and sewers within park limits.
- d. Acquiring park property, inside or outside of the city limits.
- e. Cooperating with other agencies to provide recreational programs.

The board has no levying powers. Funds come from property taxes. The budget is two percent of the city budget.

Board of Education

The Cabell County Board of Education is composed of five members elected at large on a nonpartisan ballot to serve staggered six-year terms. No magisterial district may have more than two members. Teachers and public officials may not hold this office.

The Board of Education is a policy-making and general supervisory body. Its duties are statutory and include hiring the superintendent of schools, preparing and adopting the budget, laying tax levies, policy making, and general administration of school affairs (purchasing supplies, hiring employees, maintaining school property and equipment).

--Sue Carlson

COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSENSUS

Huntington Area League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area supports the concept of Comprehensive Planning as a government responsibility at all levels of local government (city, county, and regional).

Guidelines:

The League believes the following criteria to be the best means of increasing the comprehensiveness, significance, and effectiveness of planning:

- a. Adequate and accomodating legal authority for comprehensive planning at all levels of government.
- b. Personnel (commission and staff) adequate in number, committed to the task to develop a working program, administer the Plan, and keep it up-to-date.
- c. Adoption of tools of implementation to carry out the comprehensive development plans: zoning, sub-division regulations, related housing and building codes, capital improvements program and budget.

The League holds further that the following goals for community growth and development should be reflected in the working programs of our local planning bodies.

- a. Cooperation and coordination among planning bodies.
- b. Controlled use of land by local governments so that the area may function and evolve.
- c. Decent housing to meet needs of all the people.
- d. Suitable pollution-free environment for all people.
- e. Continued growth in business, industry, and tourism.
- f. Adequacy and equality in the distribution of community facilities and services.
- g. Renewal for blighted and deteriorated neighborhoods.
- h. Preservation of assets, i.e., historical sites, riverfront development.
- i. Preservation and acquisition of open space, parks, recreation areas.
- j. Scheduling (annual review and long range planning) of public improvements according to need and financial ability.
- k. Movement of people and goods with ease and safety.

Community Planning Consensus, Continued

- l. Reflection of an awareness among the planning bodies of the need to give equal attention to social needs, economic needs, aesthetic values, and physical planning, so that one does not dominate the scale at the sacrifice of the other three.
- m. Reflection by the local governing and planning bodies of an awareness of the importance of citizen participation in the planning program and of meaningful efforts to involve people from all income levels and minority groups in the planning process.

The League believes that zoning, one of the chief regulatory tools used by local governments to guide land use, offers the maximum means of property protection to owners of residential, business, and industrial property, alike, by preventing the intrusion of incompatible land uses into the separate districts. The League further believes that any form of "exclusionary zoning" in housing is undesirable.

The League believes that to guarantee that all new development will be built to at least minimum standards and will provide adequate community services and facilities to insure the health, education, safety, and welfare of the people, there must be enforcement of prescribed subdivision regulations.

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WHERE THE ACTION IS!

League has talked about planning long enough. Now is the time to act. Martha Woodward, new Planning Chairman, needs volunteers.

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Twenty members of the Huntington League attended the "Day with the Legislators". The "coffee" was really crowded. Most of the legislators must have been there.

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The robin may be the sign for spring, but so are League conferences. Sue Carlson, Beth Bauserman, Helen Gibbins, Lila Thompson, Nancy Matthews, and Sara Kelly are attending the West Virginia State Council at Ogleby Park.

The Huntington League is entitled to three delegates, but anyone may go as a visitor if they are willing to pay expenses and a one dollar registration fee. Visitors, of course, have no vote.

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Sue Carlson and Beth Bauserman will represent us at the National Convention at Atlanta. Some people have all the luck!

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Thanks for all the letter writing to legislators--whoever and wherever you may be.

• Where the Action Is, Continued

Ambitious girl, Ann Ferguson, is a candidate for two offices: Fourth District delegate to the Democratic National Convention and Democratic Committee Woman.

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According to Joan Bassford, over 6300 copies of the pamphlet, The Welfare Mess, have been distributed to various organizations. Almost all of the Methodist churches in Cabell, Wayne, and Mason counties have distributed the pamphlets to their congregations. The Beverly Hills Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, St. John's Episcopal, Madison Avenue Christian, and First Baptist churches have, also. Edna Duckworth's husband took some to a St. Albans church, and Albert Wilson sent pamphlets to the Welfare Rights Organization. WOW!

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A table was set up at the student center of Marshall University, February 29, and March 1, to provide information on West Virginia's laws, out-of-state laws, congressmen's voting records on League issues, and other information that might be helpful in voting. Materials used were Get Ready to Vote, applications for absentee registration, and an election calendar. Other resource books, such as the West Virginia Blue Book, West Virginia Legislative Manual, West Virginia Election Laws Code, and the Library of Congress' Election Laws of the Fifty States and the District of Columbia (a digest), were used for display and consultation.

Information was given to forty-four persons on Tuesday and twenty-six people on Wednesday. Members who helped were Elinor Taylor, Betty Colker, Helen Johnson, Keeney Hill, Betty Bishop, Donna Chakrabarty, Fonneta Collett, and Helen Gibbins.

Get Ready to Vote has also been distributed to NAACP, Political Action Committee, Marshall students, and libraries of Marshall University and Cabell county. The pamphlet is available to all groups who request it. See Helen Gibbins if you are interested.

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League asked Congressmen Heckler and Kee to support the OEO bills approved by the League. Both voted favorably.

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Watch WHTM-TV 13 and local newspapers for League news and action. Action is brewing but no definite dates are set as yet.

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Stolen from the Charleston League bulletin: Incongruous--Where they make our laws.