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Huntington League of Women Voters, July 12, 1982

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

July 12, 1982

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This BULLETIN is a must for summer reading. Pour yourself a tall, cool one and relax with the latest league news....

It has been less than 5 months since I assumed the office of president. The position continues to be a true learning experience and I have valued the opportunities I've had to meet so many other League members at the local, state, and national levels and to work on League activities. Our Huntington membership is rich in experience and enthusiasm: you are proving to be great supporters, teachers and DOERS. ALSO, I welcome our new members. We need you - your ideas, your points of view. All of us have been new members at one time and you'd be surprised how easy it is (and how exciting) to dig right in and get involved. Case in point: I joined League shortly after moving to Huntington in the Fall of 1980!

We move into a new League year with a wide variety of options for involvement by local members. Among them: a new national study on security and defense; a new national concurrence on reproductive rights; state studies on education and taxation; voter service and election monitoring activities; and a super new, nationally-spearheaded membership campaign -- just to name a few things that the League of Women Voters is up to. Believe me, there is something for everyone.

Without diminishing the importance of our work on issues and our service activities, Margaret Gerke and I will be urging our Huntington League to throw extra energy into Membership, Finance, and Public Relations. These three administrative areas are absolutely essential to our organization's success.

Remember, THE LEAGUE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

-- Linda Rowe, 523-4475

STATE COUNCIL REPORT

Forty-five delegates, visitors, and 1 national board member attended the LWVW State Council meeting April 30 - May 1 in North Bend State Park. Margaret Gerke and Linda Rowe represented Huntington. The major purpose of the State Council was to assess the work that has taken place during the first year of the biennium and give direction to the state board concerning program, method of work and budget for the remainder of the biennium. Among the plans developed and approved were:

Linda Rowe, President	Lila Thompson, Treasurer	Margaret Gerke, Editor
1007 Chesapeake Court	2738 Washington Blvd.	1805 Wiltshire Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25701	Huntington, WV 25705	Huntington, WV 25701
523-4475	522-3792	529-4345

Study

- *Teacher Certification & Evaluation. Consensus deadline December 1, 1982.
- *State Transportation. Mini-survey deadline January 1, 1983.
- *Taxation and Finance. Consensus on next phase Fall 1983.
- *Update units on Juvenile Services and International Relations.

Action

- *Action for passage of the Fair Educational Opportunity Amendment - majority vote (WV legislature).
- *Action in EQ areas - Clean Air, Clean Water, Hazardous and Solid Wastes
- *Action in Land Use for the establishment of the Canaan Valley Wildlife refuge and for support of the Cranberry Wilderness concept.
- *Action to encourage citizen participation in the Block Grant process with close monitoring of Block Grant impacts on social programs.
- *Action to achieve D.C. Voting Rights Amendment ratification
- *SPECIAL EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON MEMBERSHIP

PLUS: A LWVWV Impact on Issues containing consensus positions, the history of their development, and criteria for action will be published to aid members in their work and to educate the public about League activities. Other educational activities will include the continued use of LWVWV public radio commentaries, publication of an updated YOU AND YOUR VOTE IN WV, distribution of the newly published POLITICAL PARTIES IN WV flyer, and continuation of the traditional Voters Service and Legislative activities.

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

If you haven't received it yet, stand by that mailbox and be ready for the July National VOTER, which will be a special convention issue. Meanwhile, here, from your delegate, Linda Rowe, is a brief summary of what went on in Houston in May:

- *Endorsed a nationwide membership campaign to be held Sept. 11 thru Oct. 9. Changes in membership oriented bylaws will allow individuals to join at all levels. Those joining at the national level will be referred to the appropriate state or local League.
- *Added a National Security study to "Evaluate U.S. national security policies and their impact on our domestic programs and our relationships with other nations. Begin study in Spring 1983.
- *Requested concurrence with the Leagues of N.J. and Mass. on the consensus position: "The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices." (More on what Concurrence is in later issue). Postmark Reporting Deadline Jan. 3, 1983.
- *Approved \$12 per member payment for the years 1982-84. In other words, another dollar of your dues will now go to the national offices to cover costs.
- *Began a petition drive against Tuition Tax Credits and approved many action motions.

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*Elected Officers and Directors for 1982-84. New president of LWVUS is West Virginia-born Dorothy S. Ridings of Louisville, KY. Dot Ridings is the sister of WV delegate Lyle Sattes (D-Kanawha).

The debates were spirited, the speeches (by Ruth Hinerfeld, Dot Ridings, U.S. Senator Bob Dole, columnist Ellen Goodman) varied and provocative. There were workshops, caucuses, and much more than could possibly be crammed in here. The "sense" of the convention: League is changing, moving with the times and the ever-growing sphere of influence of American women. The grassroots nature of the organization and the importance of local-level activity was reaffirmed. It's the best time yet to be in the League of Women Voters!

-- Linda Rowe, 523-4475

NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Nominating Committee-----	Beth Bauserman
Membership-----	Fran Schmitt
Education-----	Janice McNearney
Taxation-----	Kathleen Gross
International Relations-----	Nancy Taylor/Chloe Dunfee

VOTING RIGHTS ACT PASSES U.S. SENATE!

League members throughout the country worked long and hard for passage of the bill to extend the voting rights act -- and with success! All of you who wrote or called to support this bill should be proud of your efforts. The LEAGUE MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

NEW CONSULTANT

The new state board consultant assigned to our Huntington league is Karen Lukens of Charleston. Karen holds the Education portfolio for LWVWV and is an experienced and knowledgeable League member. We welcome her assistance.

TAXATION AND FINANCE CONSENSUS

The results of the consensus process on Inheritance and Personal Taxes have been reported by state Taxation chair, Lois Kauffelt:

"The League of Women Voters of West Virginia supports the continued use of state inheritance tax rather than an estate tax and supports a larger exemption for surviving spouses to be offset by general rate increases."

"The League of Women Voters of West Virginia supports the continued use of the current progressive personal income tax and supports the continued use of the current size of the West Virginia standard deduction."

The next phase of the Tax study will focus on sales taxes, (with consensus due in the Fall of 1983.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Martha Woodward who was elected to the Cabell County Board of Education and to Betty Barrett and Betsy Broh who have accepted positions on the Huntington City Council's Charter study committee.....To Frances Roberts-Buchanan who was chosen social worker of the year by the National Association for Social Workers and to Ruth Sullivan who has just been named an outstanding West Virginian by the Governor for her work with the developmentally disabled.

IN APPRECIATION

During a very difficult period for me, I was helped, supported and comforted by so many of you with your calls, rides, sympathy and memorials.

My usual news release is "dues are due"--that still holds true for "delinquents"--but I will put that aside this time to say a very sincere thank-you for being such thoughtful friends.

Lila Thompson

TRANSPORTATION MINI-SURVEY

Each local league in WV has been asked to complete a transportation mini-survey by January 1, 1983. The purpose is to gather information about public transportation in WV in an attempt to see what WV's needs are and how well they are being met. League already has a national consensus position favoring public transportation. This should be a most interesting project for the Huntington League -- the recent election made it obvious that transportation is important to our community. Martha Woodward has agreed to coordinate the mini-survey. If you would like more information, call Martha at 525-7404 or Linda Rowe at 523-4475.

ERA WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN!

"Our membership most emphatically does not believe the struggle for an equal rights amendment will end with this June 30th deadline or that ERA will fade quietly away. The League of Women Voters is used to long struggles, having been founded in 1920 at the end of the successful 72-year struggle to gain women's suffrage." :::so'begins LWVUS president on the future of the struggle to ensure equal rights for men.

MEMBERSHIP

Preliminary work on the 1982 membership campaign, "Action Packed Politics", has begun. This exciting campaign, complete with buttons, posters, flyers and radio spots is part of a nationwide effort. A goal of a minimum 10% increase in membership with financial incentives to local Leagues who go beyond the minimum 10%.

Betsy Broh, Martha Loyd, Carol Taylor and Fran Schmitt will be brainstorming for names of potential members on July 28th at the home of Betsy Broh. Who do you know who has recently moved to the area or have lived here awhile and would like to learn more about our community and government? Call Franie Schmitt, Membership Chair, at 522-9680.

AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Connie Neuner (Mrs. John)
14 Honeysuckle Lane
Huntington, WV 25701
523-0739

Brenda Waugh (Mrs. Roger)
Route 2, 6022 Miller Road
Huntington, WV 25702
736-7207

Nora Dolmetsch
5480 W. Shawnee Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
736-2542

Montserrat Chambers
1105 10th Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701
523-8419

VOTERS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Our Committee was very active and visible in many areas preparing for June Primary.

HELEN GIBBINS prepared a flyer on the political parties which was distributed to the Republican and Democratic parties as well as other outlets such as the libraries.

HELEN also wrote a flyer detailing the excess levy provisions. Both publications filled a strong need and were responsible for many of the compliments the League received about our Voters Service activities.

I have a great many people to thank for their extensive participation in many areas:

NEWSPAPERS -- CAROL TAYLOR wrote three very good letters to the editor on registration, absentee voting, and the Call-In.

Once again, We "took over" the May 30 Focus section with our VOTERS GUIDE. We are fortunate that the HERALD-DISPATCH, DON HATFIELD and FRAN ALLRED, are so receptive to the need of the community for such a presentation, and allow this at no cost to the League. Our full page plus two part-pages allowed candidates for West Virginia House and Senate, Board of Education and county commission from Cabell and Wayne Counties to answer two very tough questions and give biographical information.

RADIO: Jean George contacted many of the area stations for public service announcements on registration, absentee ballots and VOTE, which we supplied. Linda Rowe was called to do an interview on WWHY.

TELEVISION -- The big show was a candidate's meeting on WSAZ, with the five candidates for Cabell's Board of Education. From outside reports as well as League members comments, the show was a great success. Organized by JANICE McNEARNEY and CONNIE NEUNER, it featured an audience from other organizations. KATHLEEN GROSS was an excellent moderator. We appreciate the interest of MICKEY CURRY of WSAZ who also helped with the public service announcements done by JANICE McNEARNEY and BETTY BARRETT. JANICE also did a noon interview on WSAZ.

We were very visible on WOWK, where LEO MacCOURTNEY and PAUL DICKER have been extremely helpful for many years. Linda Rowe did a public service announcements which were spotted in ideal locations.

We did a series of Action Newsmaker interviews for the 6 weeks prior to the Primary. This is a 10-minute program every morning at 6:50. DIANE COE did most of the scheduling for the League members, who included HELEN GIBBINS on the political party committees, LINDA ROWE on registration and absentee voting, MARCIA DAoust on absentee and special provision for handicapped voters, KATHLEEN GROSS on the excess levy BETTY BARRETT on the Call-in and general voting info., and BETTY along with FRAN SCHMITT on the voting device.

It was at the League's suggestion that WOWK invited agency personnel who would benefit from the levy's passage to tape short presentations for Action Newsmaker. We provided the list of contacts, and the station did all the work--a welcome way to operate. KATHY JACKSON of WOWK is producer of the program, and was very helpful.

CHARLES BAGLEY allowed us another opportunity to offer voter information and demonstrate the voting device. KATHLEEN GROSS, FRAN SCHMITT and BETTY BARRETT taped a half hour for his "Tri-State Today" program for the Boy Scouts.

VOTERS SERVICE (cont'd.)

(CALL-IN: For ten years or more, we have been operating the Call-In on Election Day from WOWK's switchboard. NANCY TAYLOR did the scheduling. Workers were MARCIA DAoust, KATHY EDWARDS, HELEN GIBBINS, CONNIE NEUNER, NANCY TAYLOR, MONICA WOODRUFF, BERNICE STEIRN and CHLOE DUNFEE. We received well over 100 calls. We plan to see County Clerk Hercil Gartin this summer to point out some problems that callers had, and will report later. Thanks also to VIVIAN PHARES who found out about groups offering rides to the polls.

We were busy and look forward to similar activities for the fall. I am most appreciative of the help received from all those name and unnamed who participated. Ideas and offers of help will be much appreciated. People notice and comment on our activities at election time. Some of these are prospective members and present or prospective contributors. We need these badly. Let us keep these VOTERS SERVICE ideas in mind, especially during our membership drive coming up this fall, and the FINANCE DRIVE later on.

--BETTY BARRETT

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 23705

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