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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
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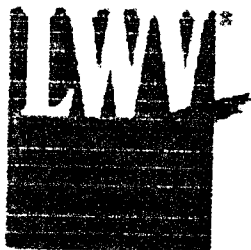
5-2008

LWV Bulletin, May, 2008

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA



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LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG
May 2008 Bulletin

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MAY 19 LEAGUE MEETING

The proposed West Virginia Public Financing of Elections is the issue we will discuss at our May 19, 7 pm meeting at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Janet Keating will be the speaker.

Public financing of elections is one of the WV League's legislative priorities. Janet will describe the proposed legislation, its progress so far, and how the Coalition plans to pursue the passage of a good Clean Elections law.

The purpose of the bill is to create an alternative public financing option for candidates seeking election to the WV Legislature. The system is voluntary and candidates who participate agree to abide by contribution and spending limits.

Invite your friends to hear how we can improve the campaign financing process.

JUNE MEETING

Elinore Taylor will review Drew Westin's, *The Political Brain* (recommended by political science professor, Dr. Simon Perry). The central thesis of the book is that a politician that makes decisions by weighing evidence, costs and benefits is a likely loser. When data clashes with desire, the political brain will somehow reason its way to the desired conclusion. The central truth of politics is that emotion rules.

We are planning a downtown, noon meeting and will provide a light lunch. We need to hear from you if you are interested, and what dates would be convenient. Contact 736-3287 or gibbins@verizon.net.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Harry and Virginia McKeown.

SUMMER FUN We are delighted to report that Cabell Huntington Hospital is sponsoring the brochure again this year. They do a great job and working with them is a joy! If you can help count, bundle and/or deliver brochures the week of May 19, please call Julie Damewood at 522-2340 or email juliedamewood@earthlink.net

SEARCH ENGINE If you use goodsearch.com, designate the LWV Education Fund, and it will receive a donation from goodsearch.

TAKE ACTION ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health, and economy of our nation and the world. With the U.S. Senate expected to take up legislation in June, now is the time to let our U.S. Senators know that they should support strong action to control global warming. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

American's Climate Security Act, S. 2191, sponsored by Senators Lieberman and Warner, will establish the basic framework that is necessary to curtail the pollution that is causing climate change.

S. 2191 is a good first step. The bill establishes a "cap and trade" system that will, if properly carried out, achieve two essential goals: cutting green-house gas emissions enough to prevent the worst impacts of global climate change, and doing so in an economically significant manner.

CALENDAR

May 19 – League’s meeting on the WV Clean Elections legislation to update us on its progress

June –TBA. Downtown meeting at noon. *The Political Brain* discussion

You may contact Senators Byrd and Rockefeller by phone or by email, and tell them to strengthen and pass S. 2191, as well as to oppose weakening amendments. Tell them that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world.

Sen. Byrd – (202) 224-3954; website e-mail form: byrd.senate.gov/byrd_email.html

Sen. Rockefeller – (202)224-6472; senator@rockefeller.state.gov

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Sarah Denman, who received the Herald- Dispatch’s Citizen of the Year award. She also has received many other awards. Sarah is retiring from MU this year.

. The “cap” sets a limit on allowable emissions from electric power, transportation, and manufacturing sources that will decline over time to meet the pollution-reduction goal. The “trading” system sets up a market that allows sources to buy, sell, borrow, and trade emission allowances so reductions can be achieved in the most cost-effective ways. However, the legislation should be strengthened in two ways: First, the bill should ensure that pollution reduction goals are consistent with the best scientific analyses. Currently, the legislation does not achieve all the reductions that will likely be needed, and advances in scientific knowledge may later indicate a need for quicker or greater reductions. Second, the auction system should be expanded to include more emissions earlier in the process. This will both speed compliance and increase economic efficiency in the program. Tell Senators Byrd and Rockefeller to oppose weakening amendments, particularly loopholes that undermine the emissions cap through such mechanisms as a so-called “safety valve” that would allow sources to purchase unlimited emission allowances.

LWV Huntington Area Jane Husted, Editor

LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

To join, send your check to: Ann Spear,
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