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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

April 1996

Nancy Taylor - Helen Gibbins Co-Presidents
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Huntington, WV 25705
522-3361

Ann Logan Speer, Treasurer
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Huntington, WV 25701
525-2244

Cabell Board of Education Candidates Forum planned

The election of two members to the Cabell County Board of Education at the May 14 primary is the final election for these offices since it is a nonpartisan race.

The public will get a chance to hear the views of the candidates and ask them questions on **May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Junior League Community Center, 617 9th Avenue.** This candidates forum will be sponsored by the Huntington Area League of Women Voters, the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club and the Junior League. League member Martha Woodward will be the moderator.

The duties of the Board of Education are to select the superintendent, adopt the annual budget, employ personnel upon recommendation of the superintendent, and plan for and manage school property.

No more than two Board members may live in the same managerial district. Incumbents live in Districts 1, 4, and 5, so if the two highest vote getters were from any of these districts, only one could be elected. The next highest vote getter from another district would receive the second seat.

The candidates are: District 1 - Keith Adkins, Dwight Dudley, Joseph Farrell, Jr., Bobbie Lee Williams; District 2 - Barbara Simpson; District 3 - Helen Coffey, Philip Parlock; District 4 - Anita Adkins, Timothy Hightower; and District 5 - Martha Dela Rosa.

The makeup of the school board is important to every child, every parent and every citizen of the county. Mark May 2 on your calendar and come with questions for the candidates. It will not be possible to televise the meeting as previously planned.

(submitted by Helen Brown, Education chair)

Gun Law vetoed

Thank you, all Leaguers who contacted Governor Caperton about the gun law passed in the 1996 legislative session. It would have prohibited municipalities from passing local gun laws such as Charleston has enacted. Governor Caperton vetoed the law, saying that the state should not take away local control.

Solid Waste

The City of Huntington and the Cabell and Wayne Solid Waste Authorities have been awarded a state grant of \$265,000 to start a composting program. Watch for information about this program which will take all yard waste and compost it for cover for the landfill.

ACTION ALERT

The week of April 15, Sen. Alan Simpson (R WY) is expected to offer an amendment to the Immigration Reform Act of 1996 that would virtually kill the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), the federal motor voter law.

The Simpson amendment would require all who register to vote under any NVRA program to provide proof of citizenship by providing a U.S. passport, or a certificate of citizenship, or a certificate of naturalization. Alternatively, a registrant could provide a birth certificate AND a driver's license with a picture ID or similar official state identification. The amendment exempts citizens from this proof of citizenship requirement if they register under state or federal laws other than the NVRA.

By exempting state registration programs not included in the NVRA, it is clear that the effect of this proposed amendment is to repeal the federal motor voter law. With the proof of citizenship requirement, mail-in registration programs under the NVRA would not be feasible. Agency-based programs, including registration at the driver's license and public assistance agencies, as well as those that serve people with disabilities, would be rendered completely ineffective.

Please call your Senators immediately and urge them to oppose the Simpson Proof of Citizenship Amendment to the Immigration Reform Act of 1996. *(taken from an Action Alert from The League of Women Voters of the United States.)*

VOTERS SERVICE ACTIVITIES

*Election Day Call In Service - Virginia Hensley will coordinate this activity. League members will answer phone calls about the elections at Channel 13 on May 14, Election Day. Please let Virginia, 525-4370, know if you can help.

*School Board Candidates Meeting - May 2. Coordinators, Helen Brown and Martha Woodward. Junior League Community Center

*Republican Candidates for Governor Debate - April 24. Facilitator, Laura Gilliam. Huntington Woman's Club.

*Democrat Candidates for Governor Debate - April 25. Facilitator, Rebecca Bookwalter. Huntington Woman's Club.

**"Get out the vote" promotion - coordinated by Marcia Daoust.

*Registering voters - Rose Riter, Nancy Taylor, Helen Gibbins, Helen Price, Doris Johnson.

*Elections Table at Cabell County Library - Margot Durbin.

*Put a message on your answering machine
encouraging callers to vote on May 14.*

Regarding bills affecting social policy passed by the WV legislature (from the Charleston Area League of Women Voters newsletter)

Welfare Reform: SB140 "WV Works Act" passed on March 9. This was a bill sponsored by Governor Caperton that reforms the welfare system. The reform works on the premise that everyone that is getting welfare (AFDC) has a responsibility to be gainfully employed, doing community service, or getting the educational background so that they can be a part of the workplace. The program will subsidize some employment. It will give support to families in the form of child care, Medicaid, transportation, budgeting, family planning, relocation services and mentoring. This is a broadly structured program. The DHHR has to get waivers from the federal government for this reform, which they could not apply for until the authority for the change was given to the Department. When the details of the waiver are determined, the program will be fully outlined in emergency regulations. The federal government will not give a waiver unless the program is revenue neutral in 5 years. However, the program will be more expensive than welfare when initiated.

Domestic violence: SB 154 makes it easier to arrest a person who violates a protective order. It allows the law-enforcement officer to make an arrest based on his or her observation of a violation, or a verbal or written allegation from a victim or witness. Also a second violation of a protective order is a felony with a prison sentence of 1-5 years.

Unfortunately, HB4111 which would have required warning signs for fetal alcohol syndrome in all businesses with retail liquor licenses, did not pass.

VOTE MAY 14

The LWV is a nonpartisan political 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 \$30 individual, \$45 for two in one household.

To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701.

LWV Huntington Area

Bulletin

Sally K. Adkins, Editor

Calendar

- April 18 Democrat Candidates for US Senator, 8:30 p.m. WPBY-TV.
- April 19 Republican Candidates for Governor, 9:00 p.m. WPBY-TV.
- April 22 Earth Day.
- April 24 Republican Candidates for Governor, 7:00 p.m. Huntington Woman's Club.
- April 25 Democrat Candidates for Governor, 7:00 p.m. Huntington, Woman's Club.
- April 26 LWVWV Council Meeting, Bethany College
- April 29 LWV Huntington Area Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.
- May 2 Candidates for Cabell County Board of Education, 7 p.m., Junior League Community Center.
- June 8-12 LWVUS National Convention, Chicago, IL.

New Members

Welcome: Susan Spencer, Verona Clarke, Bobbie Clarke, Stacy Kent, and Catherine Woodward.

Dues

1996-97 dues are due now and may be paid to the LWV of the Huntington Area, 706 Ridgewood Rd. 25701. Fees are \$30, one member; \$45 for two in one household.

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