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10-2007

LWV Bulletin, October, 2007

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

OF HUNTINGTON

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LWVWV website: www: LWVWV.ORG LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG October 2007 Bulletin

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

IMMIGRATION STUDY/CONSENSUS OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

How do you <u>really</u> feel about immigration? On what do you base your opinion? Have you read the Immigration Study information on the League website, www.lwv.org?

The LWVUS Immigration Committee has done a remarkable job in researching information to help Leagues become informed and be able to come to consensus on this controversial issue. The October "National Voter" Pages 11 and 12 have some high points that will help in the immigration discussion. Besides the committee's information on the LWV's website, you may also access the National Voter's articles. On the first page at the bottom right you can click on National Voter, and read the two articles. Also you can access a February discussion of Immigration under Library.

Our Huntington Area League will meet on October 15 and again on November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church to discuss this issue. Please be thinking about:

What criteria should Federal Immigration laws consider?

What should be our top three priorities? How should we treat unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S.?

Should we require ID cards of all residents?

Read the materials and come prepared to join in what promises to be a lively discussion, led by Giovanna Deveny. We will send our final consensus report to the LWVUS which will accumulate responses from Leagues throughout the country. These reports will form the basis for a position for taking action on Immigration. Grassroots agreement on

positions is one of the League's greatest strengths.

RUNNING FOR OFFICE

The Huntington League will sponsor a workshop for those who are considering running for office in 2008. The meeting will be on November 6, 7 pm, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. The program will include campaign finance regulations and reports, presented by the Cabell County Clerk Karen Cole; and How to Run a Campaign, by several speakers. Betty Barrett will moderate the meeting.

Please circulate this information to all of those who might be interested in running for office.

DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL, 2007

Thanks to Rose Riter for preparing an update on this flyer. She left flyers at the downtown library for distribution to the branch libraries. As soon as the flyers were printed, several officials announced their resignations. Please make the following changes: Magistrate-Brenda Chapman retired and John McCallister was appointed to the vacant position. City Council – Brandi Jacobs Jones resigned and was appointed to be the Director of Administration and Finance for the City of Huntington.

FINANCE DRIVE

Thanks to Virginia Hensley for sending the letters to prospective contributors to the Huntington League. We depend on contributions from the community to help finance our projects. Contributions may be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, and mailed to our treasurer, Ann Speer, 706 Ridgewood Rd. Huntington, WV 25701. For the

contribution to be tax deductible it must be made out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

HUNTINGTON'S HOUSING PROGRAMS

Carole Boster provided the following information about the housing funds that the City of Huntington receives from the federal government. Community Development Grant (CDBG), Home Opportunities Made Equal (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) receive funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In order to receive these funds it signs numerous certifications including one to Affirmatively Further Fair Housing. Huntington meets this statutory obligation by having a **Human Relations Commission and partially supporting** the Commission with some funds from the CDBG program. The rest of the financial support for the Commission comes through HUDs" Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP). To qualify for FHAP funds, the city must have a civil rights ordinance that is determined by HUD to be substantially equivalent to the Fair Housing Amendments of 1988.

Other entities in the city also receive HUD funds. The Huntington Public Housing Authority (PHA) is entirely funded by HUD. The PHA has both public housing units and tenant based Section 8 assistance. Some other housing developments in the city that are privately owned receive what is called site-based Section 8 housing Assistance through HUD's multifamily programs.

After the September League meeting's presentation by Huntington's Human Relations Commission Chair Richard Cobb, the Huntington League's board voted to support amendments to Huntington's ordinance; but the Huntington Council did not vote to send the ordinance on to a second reading. Therefore, we did not submit our statement.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Summer of 1787: The Men who Invented the Constitution by David Stewart. Entertaining and illuminating on how our Constitution was crafted.

Describes the personalities and background of those at the Convention of 1787. Explains how decisions were made.

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, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

LWV Huntington Area Jane Hustead, Editor

CALENDAR



Oct. 15, 7 pm, League meeting on Immigration, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church
Oct. 22, 11:30 am, Huntington League's board meeting. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.
Nov. 1, 7-8 pm, "Health Care for All – A Vision for WV", Speaker, Ron Pollack of the family USA, a national organization for health care consumers, U. of Charleston. More information - 304-346-4402.
Nov. 6, 7 pm, Running for Office workshop, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church.

PLASTIC BAGS.

It is estimated that the US uses 100 billion plastic bags a year, which take an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce. It takes up to 1000 years for plastic bags to break down in the environment. Unfortunately many plastic bags end up in the natural world both on land and waters thus threatening wildlife. Consider reusing your bags rather than throwing them away. Or take the bags to the store to reuse for carrying your purchases home but recycling them when they are no longer usable. Or better yet take a permanent reusable bag to the store. Here are some tips on recycling your bags.

YES to clean and dry grocery bags, retail bags (remove hard plastic and string handles), paper towel and toilet paper wrap, plastic newspaper bags, plastic dry cleaning bags, and all bags labeled with a #2 or #4. Recycle only clean and dry bags. Remove receipts.

NO to food or cling wrap, prepackaged food bags including frozen food bags, pre washed salad bags, no film that has been painted or has excessive glue, no biobased or compostable plastic bags. (Information from plasticbag recycling.org).

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