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LWV Bulletin, November, 2007

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Huntington Area

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HUNTINGTON

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Immigration Study for November 2007 Huntington LWVHA Voter

For some, it is difficult to understand the concern expressed by many when the word "immigration" is heard. But with a little introspection, we realize that most of us are descendants of immigrants who have helped to develop this country into a model for the world.

There have been major immigrations in our history; several have been larger than the illegal immigration we are currently experiencing. But there are several differences. Where the waves of the past congregated in the large cities, those of today do not stop in the metropolitan areas of the United States. Now the smaller towns and cities are seeing many newcomers in quantities more numerous than the townspeople. More importantly, our ancestors were recruited from their home countries to help build this country and came here by legal means.

The League has been studying this issue and has prepared excellent background papers to help us come to consensus regarding how we move forward in a fair way to come to terms with this huge problem. There are serious considerations affecting not only our security and natural resources, but also our future economy.

Please avail yourself of these materials at www.lwv.org and prepare to come to League consensus at the second meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Enslow Park Presbyterian, on November 19, 2007.

ADVOCACY

Thank you, Mary Anderson, for presenting the Huntington League's statement to city council in favor of the ordinance calling for an election on whether to form a charter board to review Huntington's charter.

The state League sent comments in opposition to the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement's proposed changes to the Buffer Zone Rule. A 1983 Stream Buffer Zone rule barred mining practices within 100 feet of a stream unless those activities do not impact water quality or quantity. The Stream Buffer Zone protected intermittent and perennial streams so that "environmental protection will be afforded to those streams with more significant environmental-resource value." (OSM rules) But the OSM proposes removing this protection. (Permission was granted by the LWVUS to send these comments.)

The national League, LWVUS, has been busy lobbying Congress on a number of issues as follows:

- * Supported H.R. 2826, legislation to restore the fundamental due process protection of habeas corpus. This legislation would restore to detainees in U.S. custody the right of habeas corpus that was taken away by the Military Commissions Act of 2006 and ensure the constitutional right to challenge imprisonment before an independent court.
- * Urged the US Senate to protect the civil liberties of Americans when the issue of warrantless wiretapping comes before them in the coming weeks.
- * Urged US Senators to support the Public Prosecution Act that would strengthen public corruption laws and increase the ability of federal prosecutors to hold public officials accountable for misuse and abuse of their offices.
- * Supported SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program. The Huntington League joined in contacting our members of Congress on this issue.
- * Urged the US Senate to support the National Security Letter Reform Act that will protect the personal information of American citizens by placing clear and reasonable limitations on the FBI's authority to issue National Security Letters.
- * Urged the U.S. Election Assistance Commission to promote public participation when reforming voter registration laws.

RUNNING FOR OFFICE MEETING

Thank you to Betty Barrett who moderated the meeting and to panelists County Clerk Karen Cole, former WV Senator Dr. Tom Scott, City Councilwoman Mary Neely, and former WV Delegate Rick Houvouras for informative presentations on how to run for office. About 40 people showed up for the program.

RECYCLING

Why recycle? In this era most scientists accept that global warming comes from our human imprint, especially our extravagant release of Carbon Dioxide. Here are some facts about the reduction of the use of energy when recycled materials are substituted for virgin materials. (From the Natural Resources Defense Council website.)

Aluminum - 95 % reduction

Newsprint - 45% reduction

Print/writing paper - 35% reduction

Linerboard - 26% reduction

Boxboard - 26% reduction

Glass - 31% reduction. (Reusing glass garners a 328% reduction.)

Steel - 61% reduction

Plastic (PET) - 57% reduction

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 Husted, Editor

CALENDAR



November 19, 7 pm, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Second meeting on Immigration

November 26, 11:30 am, Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Board meeting
January noon meeting TBA

February morning meeting with AAUW and US Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, West Huntington Library, 10 am, Literacy programs

Congratulations To:

Christie Kinsey who was recently featured in "Magnificent Masters in Financial Services", a book that features 14 successful women.

Dr. Betty Cleckley, on her retirement from Marshall U. Betty recently was honored for her service to the University and the state in the area of human rights, race relations, and multicultural affairs.

RESIGNATION FROM THE BOARD

Because Jane Husted has filed for the office of Circuit Judge, she has resigned as 2nd VP of the LWV Huntington Area. This complies with our non-partisan policy. She has graciously agreed to continue publishing the monthly bulletin.

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