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Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

March & April, 1974

Mrs. E. O. Barrett
President
408 Eleventh Avenue
525-5908

Mrs. D. Thompson
Treasurer
2738 Washington Blvd.
522-3792

Mrs. T. Bauserman
Editor
616 S. Terrace
522-3052

C A L E N D A R

- March 5 Election Laws Consensus. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Norway Ave. and Green Oak Drive, 9:30 A. M. Two babysitters (since there is no school) and parking provided.
- 6 Election Laws Consensus. Bernice Steirn, 2030 N. Englewood Rd., 7:30 P.M.
- 16 ANNUAL MEETING. Huntington Womens Club, 1201 Huntington Ave. Registration begins at 12 o'clock noon. Lunch, \$3.10. 1974 dues will be payable at the luncheon.
- 26 Board Meeting. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, 9:30 A. M.
- April 2 Finance Workshop. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, 9:30 A. M.
- 3 Finance Workshop. Betty Barrett, 408 Eleventh Ave., 7:30 P. M.
- 19 & 20 West Virginia LWV State Council. Gateway Inn and Restaurant, Rt. 60 E. Huntington Area League will be hostess.
- 23 Board Meeting. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, 9:30 A. M.
- May 6-10 National Convention, San Francisco
- 14 Primary Elections
-

NEW MEMBERS

League welcomes the following new members:

Mrs. R. J. Silverstein (Jean) 697-7980
116 Woodland Drive 25705

Mrs. Ronald Homan (Meg) 525-0889
210 West Eleventh Avenue 25701

WHERE THE ACTION IS!

Election Laws. Bea Lingenfelter is anxious that League have a large turnout for the election laws consensus. Areas to be covered are nominating candidates for state and other offices, changing laws dealing with primary elections, validity of our presidential preference primary, selection of presidential delegates, and political party committee structure. Y'all come! Y'hear?

Library Election. League will have the usual call-in service for the library election day. League will cooperate with members of the Huntington Womens Club by conducting the call-in service while the Womens Club members furnish transportation and baby sitters. League has no position on the issue but is glad to provide voter information to the public.

Anyone, who is interested in helping with the library election, should call Jim Casto, president of Friends of the Library. He will welcome your help.

Primary Election. Carol Elvery will need helpers for Voter Service in the primary election. Action is in the planning and preparation stage. A TV program for the primary and the school board is a possibility.

Election Laws. Helen Gibbins and Mrs. Tonkies presented a difficult subject (political committees) in a very effective, precise, and succinct manner on Noon News, TV-13.

Civic Committee Members. Several League members have been appointed to various local civic committees: Sally Lenke, to the County Planning Committee, joining Helen Gibbins and Opal Mann; Edna Duckworth and Ruth Sullivan, to the Cabell County Historical Committee; and Giovanna Deveny, to the advisory committee working on city comprehensive planning.

Speakers Bureau. Organizations taking advantage of our Speakers Bureau have been First Presbyterian Women (welfare slide and tape presentation by Elinor Taylor and Betty Barrett); West Huntington Kiwanis (Betty Barrett, welfare slide and tapes); and Business and Professional Women (topic: "How a Bill Becomes a Law" by Betty Barrett).

Helen Gibbins also spoke before the Cabell County P. T. A. Council on "How Planning Affects Schools". Ruth Prante of Welcome Wagon has invited League to talk about registration and absentee voting for several meetings. Betty Barrett spoke on January 14, and give them the brochure, "So You Want to Vote" and our recent government officials roster.

Human Resources. The West Virginia Welfare Department is copying and updating Elinor Taylor's welfare slide and tape presentation to use for the orientation of their new volunteers and employees.

Thanks. League and the bulletin editor in particular are appreciative of the typing done by Gina Colburn and Carolyn Tillack for the bulletin.

National Pledge. LWV of West Virginia has paid 100% of its pledge to the national board. Other leagues, who have completed 100% of their national pledge, are Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and Wyoming.

National Board Priorities. Top-level priorities for the national board are air quality, campaign finance, ERA, and trade. Secondary priorities are housing and solid waste. These will remain the priorities until national convention time.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HUNTINGTON
AREA, 1938

POLITICAL PARTIES STRUCTURE

The Precinct

1. It is an arbitrary geographical area surrounding a polling place encompassing on the national average 600 voters.
2. In West Virginia each precinct within any urban center shall contain not less than 300 nor more than 800 voters. Each precinct in a rural or less thickly settled area shall contain not less than 200 nor more than 700 registered voters.
3. It is the fundamental place for effective political activity.
4. A captain of each precinct may be appointed by the County Executive Committee. These precinct captains shall in turn name as many assistants as may be required.

Magisterial Districts

1. They are established by the County Court. Each county shall be laid off into districts of not less than 3 nor more than 10 in number and as nearly equal as may be in territory and population.
2. The Cabell County Court recently redistricted the county into 7 magisterial districts, numbered one to seven. (The names of the previous districts were Barboursville, Gideon, Grant, Guyandotte, Kyle, McComas, and Union.)

The Wayne County districts are Butler, Ceredo, Lincoln, Stonewall, Union, and Westmoreland.
3. The members of the County Executive Committee for their magisterial districts or city wards shall be heads of the political organization for such district or ward.

Wards

Each city having a population of 10,000 or more may be divided into wards.

1. In Cabell County, Huntington is the only city with a population of 10,000 or more. There are 9 wards in Huntington in Cabell County.
2. There is one ward in Huntington in Wayne County.

Other Districts

In the primaries in which political party members are chosen, voters also elect the members of the Congressional District, Senatorial District, and the Delegate District Committees when such districts exist. The function of these committees is to fill vacated offices.

County Executive Committee

1. One committeeman and one committeewoman are elected from each ward and magisterial district in the county.
2. Committeemen and committeewomen are elected for four years at the May primary in non-gubernatorial election years.
3. Members meet as soon as possible after June 1, and select a chairman, treasurer, secretary, and such additional officers as may be desired. Officers may or may not be members of the committee.
4. Number of members: Cabell County -- 32 (16 x 2)
Wayne County -- 14 (7 x 2)

5. The functions are to:
 - a. provide nominations for public office when no one from that party has filed
 - b. provide names to fill vacancies in public offices
 - c. select election officials and registrars for the quadrennial checkup
 - d. provide support and money for candidates for public office
 - e. adopt a party platform
 - f. function in a watchdog capacity informing the public of the possible misdeeds of other public officials
 - g. arrange for magisterial districts' conventions to select delegates to the state convention.
 - ~~h. conduct registration and "get out the vote" campaigns~~
- State Executive Committee

1. There are two male and two female members from each senatorial district not more than two of whom shall be residents of the same county. There are seventeen senatorial districts in West Virginia.
2. The State Executive committee shall appoint three additional members of the committee from the state at large.
3. Members are elected at the May primary in non-gubernatorial years for four year terms.
4. Total members of the committee are 71.
5. Cabell and Wayne Counties are in the Fifth Senatorial District
6. As soon as possible after June 1, following the election of the new executive committee, the committee shall convene, on the call of the outgoing chairman, and select a chairman, treasurer, secretary, and any such other offices as may be desired. Officers may or may not be chosen from the duly elected or appointed members of the committee.
7. The functions are similar to those under the County executive committee with the exception of (c) and (g). In addition, the state committee
 - a) adopts a party emblem and
 - b) arranges for the state convention.

National Executive Committee

1. One committeeman and one committeewoman for each party are nominated by the State executive committee for a four year term.
2. The National committee is composed of the following members:
 - a. Democratic: $150 = 50 \text{ states} \times 2$ plus 50 (50 members were pro-rated among the states according to votes cast for the Democratic presidential candidate in the previous election. Both West Virginia's chairman and associate chairman serve on the National Committee now).
 - b. Republican: $150 = 50 \times 3$ (besides the committee persons selected by the state parties, all state chairmen serve on the National Committee).
3. The committee meets after the convention and selects its officers such as the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, etc.
4. The functions are to:
 - a. arrange for the national conventions
 - b. raise funds for the parties
 - c. control patronage
 - d. oversee public relations and provide material and literature
 - e. integrate state activities at the national level.

Party Conventions

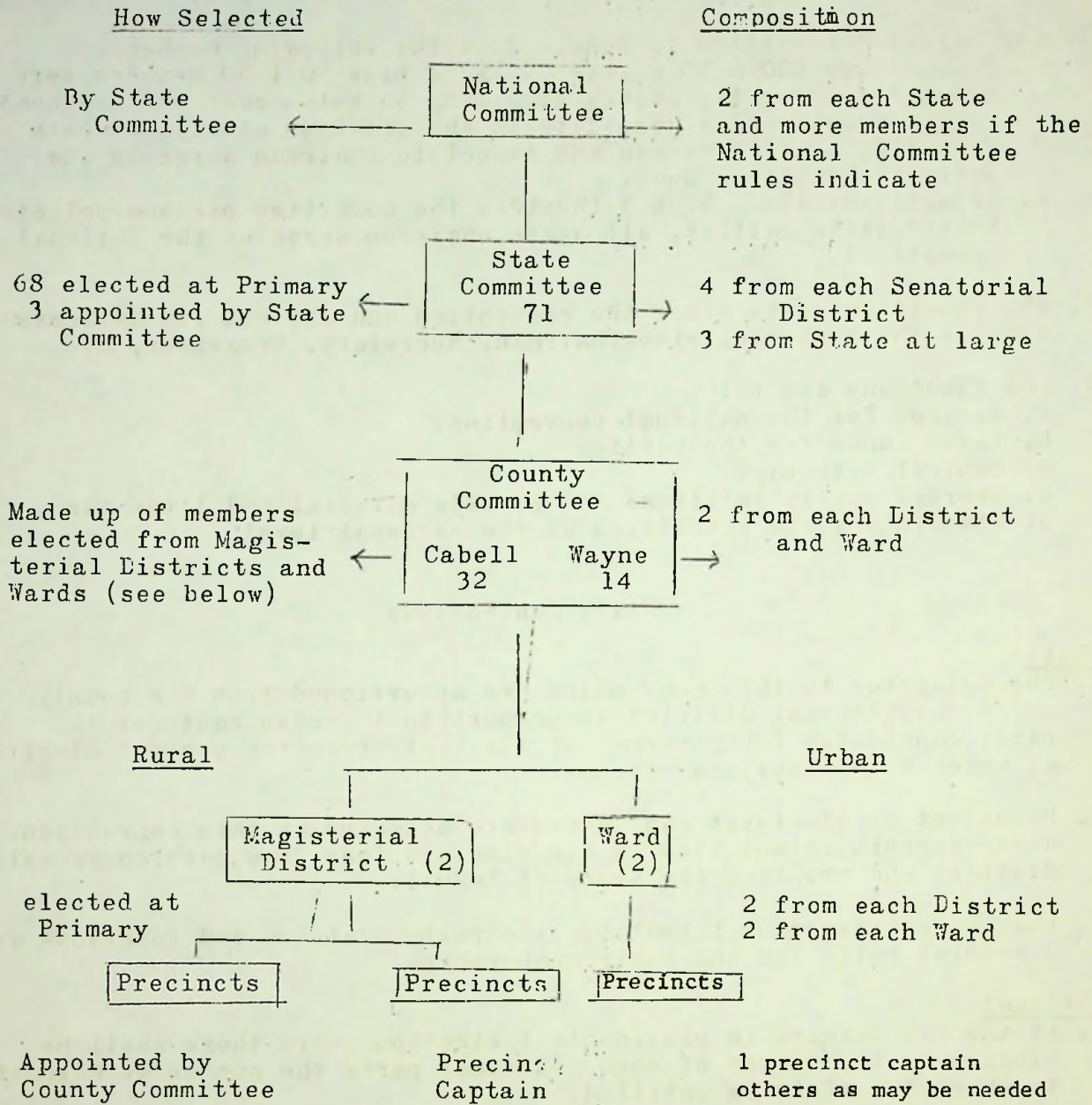
State

1. The delegates to this convention are apportioned from the county and/or magisterial district in proportion to votes cast for the party candidates for governor at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected.
2. Presidential electoral candidates are selected at this convention. West Virginia is entitled to six electors (one from each congressional district and two from the state at large).
3. The state convention formulates the party platform and functions as a general rally for the party membership.

National

1. At the May primary in presidential election years there shall be elected by the voters of each political party the number of delegates to which the state is entitled.
2. The number of delegates is apportioned by the National Executive Committees based on the number of congressional districts within a state.
 - a. Republican party: In 1972 there were 18 delegates and 18 alternates: 2 from each congressional district, 4 at large and a bonus of 6 more at large for having a Republican governor.
 - b. Democratic party: In 1972 there were 35 delegates and 28 alternates: 2 districts with 7 delegates, 2 districts with 6 delegates, and 9 at large delegates.

POLITICAL PARTY STRUCTURE



ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

March 16, 1974
12 O'clock Noon
\$3.10

Huntington Womens Club
1201 Huntington Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia

1974 dues will be payable at the luncheon.

Report of the Nominating Committee

2'd Vice-President	Mrs. Fred Boggs
Secretary	Mrs. John H. McMillian
Treasurer	Mrs. David Thompson
Directors	Mrs. Donald Carson Mrs. Howard Prante Mrs. Frances Norton Mrs. James Colburn
Nominating Committee, 1975	Mrs. Joe Kowalski, Chairman Mrs. Allen Lingenfelter Mrs. G. R. Phillips

--Mrs. Charles Ferguson, Chairman
1974 Nominating Committee

Bylaw Changes Resume

Suggested changes in bylaws to be approved by the local board, state board, and 2/3 of the voting members present at the annual meeting are:

Under Article VI, Sec. 2, Dues, add Where more than one member resides at the same domicile, one of the members will pay \$15 dues; succeeding members will pay \$10 each.

Under Article IV, Sec. 1, Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office, add The president shall be limited to two consecutive terms of office.

(A more detailed account of the bylaw changes was printed in the January, February bulletin.)

BUDGET
1974--1975

<p>EXPENDITURES:</p> <p>A. <u>Operating costs</u></p> <p>1. General supplies \$100</p> <p>2. Postage 10</p> <p>3. Telephone & telegraph 10</p> <p>4. Capital expenditures 350 (cost of accrued funds for new equipment)</p> <p>B. <u>Board & administrative committees</u></p> <p>1. President 125</p> <p>2. Secretary 10</p> <p>3. Treasurer 15</p> <p>4. Board tools & expenses 175</p> <p>5. Administrative committees</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. finance 50</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. membership 50</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. unit organization 25</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d. public relations 10</p> <p>C. <u>Delegates, travel, & affiliations</u></p> <p>1. State convention (council) 20</p> <p>2. National convention 525</p> <p>D. <u>Financial support for the League</u></p> <p>1. State & nat. services 800</p> <p>2. Per member payment (92 members @ \$4 each) 368</p>	<p>E. <u>Bulletin</u> \$200</p> <p>F. <u>Educational activities</u></p> <p>1. Publications</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. purchase plus distribution costs 50</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. production plus distribution costs 800</p> <p>2. Program committees</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. national 25</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. state 25</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. local 25</p> <p>3. Voters service 300</p> <p>G. <u>Position support</u></p> <p>1. Publications on League positions 50</p> <p>2. Action activities</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. national 25</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. state 50</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. local 50</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Grand total \$4243</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INCOME</p> <p>A. Dues (100 members @ \$15 each) \$1500</p> <p>B. Contributions 1400</p> <p>C. Publications 50</p> <p>D. Other sources 41</p> <p>E. From reserves 1252</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total 4243</p>
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LOCAL PROGRAM 1974-1975

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Study of alternate forms of government in Cabell county
 Study of recreation in Huntington area (including community use of schools)
 Support of the Cabell county school system
 Support of the council-manager government
 Support of comprehensive planning
 Support of improved solid waste management

ELECTION PROCEDURES

Support of redistricting of precincts and improved election procedures

HUMAN RESOURCES

Support of improvement of juvenile court procedures and supporting agencies

Items submitted but not recommended by the board are study of consumer protection, study of boards and city hall organizations, study of systematic planning in the school system (libraries, grading, audio-visual aids, special education, implementation of federal programs)

CONSENSUS POSITIONS - 1972

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE HUNTINGTON AREA

1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING (adopted March 1972)

The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area supports the concept of Comprehensive planning as a government responsibility at all levels of local government (city, county, and regional).

GUIDELINES:

The League believes the following criteria to be the best means of increasing the comprehensiveness, significance, and effectiveness of planning:

- a. Adequate and accomodating legal authority for comprehensive planning at all levels of government.
- b. Personnel (commission and staff) adequate in number, committed to the task to develop a working program, administer the Plan, and keep it up-to-date.
- c. Adoption of tools of implementation to carry out the comprehensive development plans: zoning, sub-division regulations, related housing and building codes, capital improvements program, and budget.

The League holds further that the following goals for community growth and development should be reflected in the working programs of our local planning bodies.

- a. Cooperation and coordination among planning bodies.
- b. Controlled use of land by local governments so that the area may function and evolve.
- c. Decent housing to meet needs of all people.
- d. Suitable pollution-free environment for all people.
- e. Continued growth in business, industry, and tourism.
- f. Adequacy and equality in the distribution of community facilities and services.
- g. Renewal for blighted and deteriorated neighborhoods.
- h. Preservation of assets, i.e. historical sites, riverfront development.
- i. Preservation and acquisition of open space, parks, recreation areas.
- j. Scheduling (annual review and long range planning) of public improvements according to need and financial ability.
- k. Movement of people and goods with ease and safety.
- l. Reflection of an awareness among the planning bodies of the need to give equal attention to social needs, economic needs, aesthetic values, and physical planning, so that one does not dominate the scale at the sacrifice of the other three.
- m. Reflection by the local governing and planning bodies of an awareness of the importance of citizen participation in the planning program and of meaningful efforts to involve people from all income levels and minority groups in the planning process.

The League believes that zoning, one of the chief regulatory tools used by local governments to guide land use, offers the maximum means of property protection to owners of residential, business, and industrial property, alike, by preventing the intrusion of incompatible land uses into the separate districts. The League further believes that any form of "exclusionary zoning" in housing undesirable.

The League believes that to guarantee that all new development will be built at least to minimum standards and will provide adequate community services and facilities to insure the health, education, safety, and welfare of the people, there must be enforcement of proscribed subdivision regulations.

2. JUVENILE COURT (adopted May 1970)

1. The Huntington League of Women Voters supports the coordination and cooperation of the agencies serving delinquent, dependent, or neglected children through the juvenile court.
2. We believe additional services are needed in order to obtain more adequate care for children under the care of the court.
3. Separate home facilities need to be provided for children who have different needs.
4. We favor a probation staff large enough to provide prompt and thorough hearings of the court.
5. We favor requiring the personnel working with juveniles to be trained in the disciplines necessary for working with juvenile problems.

3. ELECTION PROCEDURES (adopted before 1955)

The details of this item have been lost because of loss of records dating before 1955. Action was taken under this item in order to upgrade polling places, realign precincts, and obtain voting machines. The goals to be obtained under this position were apparently achieved before 1955 as this item became a continuing responsibility at that time. (a designation no longer used) Similar action is now possible under the state item on election law reform, but we retain the local position in order to emphasize our continuing concern locally.

4. COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT (adopted April 1953)

The League of Women Voters of Huntington endorses the adoption of a council-manager form of government by the city of Huntington.

Action under this item resulted in the establishment of council-manager government in our city. The League actively supported a proposed charter which was adopted in 1957; in 1963 the League fought changes in the charter which would provide for a strong mayor with council members elected by their wards rather than at large. This revision was defeated at the polls. No charter revisions have been presented since then. Nevertheless, action can be taken under this item at any time if necessary.

COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENT (revised October 1973)

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters continues to support the present council-manager system of government with its present method of electing council members.

The group definitely felt the council-manager system adequate even though it recognized the lack of leadership inherent in the system. No one wanted to sacrifice the business-like efficiency of the council-manager system, but many called for more responsiveness from elected leaders and from the city manager. There were no votes for any of the alternative forms of government.

While the majority favored the present method of voting, there was a strong minority for a combination of ward and at-large voting. Again, the discussion centered on responsiveness. This question brought out much more heated comments and pleas for change than did the question of structure.

All were interested in studying intergovernmental cooperation further and most wished some look at local government finance. A few mentioned looking at City Hall organization, but it was announced that the new city manager is investigating this.

5. EDUCATION

This item is in the process of study and no consensus has been reached.

6. SOLID WASTE (adopted January 1973)

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters believes in the regional concept of solid waste management. We support collection from every home and business in some way throughout the region, through such methods as collection boxes where population and geography make individual pickup impractical. We believe that costs should be brought into line with income from user fees. We strongly support recycling efforts under government leadership, preferably on a compulsory basis applied to homes and business and industry.

Nonpartisanship Policy
LWV of Huntington Area

"The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate." Article II, section 2. Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

1. An individual shall not be nominated or appointed to the Board when either she or a member of her immediate family is involved in any of the following activities:
 - a. Running or elected for office, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
 - b. Has a high position in any political party.
 - c. Is campaign manager for a candidate for public office.
2. Any board member who assumes any of the above duties shall resign immediately.
3. The president and voters service chairman may not attend any partisan meeting.
4. Husbands of board members may contribute to a political party as long as their names are not used publically.
5. Board members may attend political meetings to listen but not to endorse.
6. Older children of board members may participate in party activity as long as they do not use their mother's name.
7. Board members, except the president and voters service chairman, may work at the polls on election day.
8. League is permitted to suggest names of people to be appointed to governmental committees when the committees are nonpartisan.

Adopted by the Huntington Board of Directors, October 1971.

BOOK BEAT

Land Use at the State Level: The Growing Edge, #292, 50¢. On sale at unit meetings.

If We're Going to Play the Futures Game, a 21st Century Project pamphlet. Designed for Leagues and other community groups to use in planning citizen discussions on the future. The booklet contains ideas about the future of our country, hints on how to run discussions about the future, and sources for more information about the future.

Tackling the Trouble with Trade--from Tashkent to Topeka to Tokyo. A report on the League of Women Voters Education Fund Conference, July 10-11, 1973. Order from League of Women Voters of the U. S., 1730 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036, No. 458, 60¢. (Or you may read the copy belonging to the bulletin editor. First come, first served.)

Political Accountability Rating: 1st Session, 93 Congress, No. 507. A summary of how Washington congressmen and senators voted on League issues. None of the West Virginia men had 100% scores. Order from League of Women Voters of the U. S., 1730 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

* * * * *
 *
 * FINANCE WORKSHOP *
 *
 * Ed Barrett *
 * Director *
 *
 *
 * Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church *
 * April 2, 1974 *
 *
 * Betty Barrett *
 * 408 Eleventh Avenue *
 * April 3, 1974 *
 *
 * * * * *

If spring brings the April showers and May flowers, it also brings the League finance drive. Don't groan! League deserves financial support from the community.

When we go out on a finance drive, we do not ask to get anything for free. The League has something to offer in return, and contributors understand this. They give because they believe in the many and varied things we are doing and realize that they, themselves, could not afford the time and effort we are willing to put in. They understand that, financially, our members could not carry forward League's larger projects, no matter how much we, ourselves, contribute in money and countless work hours.

Do we realize the continuous values for a community in having a strong, active League? It is a fact that even when we do not make the headlines, League is a quiet influence towards having a community stay alert and progressive; towards strengthening and broadening voter information; towards keeping the government responsive. This is the deeper reason why so many banks, businessmen, prominent individuals have the League on their list of organizations to support.

The finance workshop will be most helpful in training us. Since Ed Barrett, with his professional training and experience in public relations, is conducting the workshop, League should be better equipped than ever to promote a finance drive.

Members may help the finance drive in several ways. They may type letters; they may solicit contributions; or they may contribute financially. Some members sell their old newspapers and glass and contribute the money to League. Volunteers are always welcome.

If there is sufficient demand, a babysitter will be provided for members while they are keeping finance drive appointments. Please let Charlene Boggs (523-2996) know.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD

League of Women Voters of West Virginia State Council

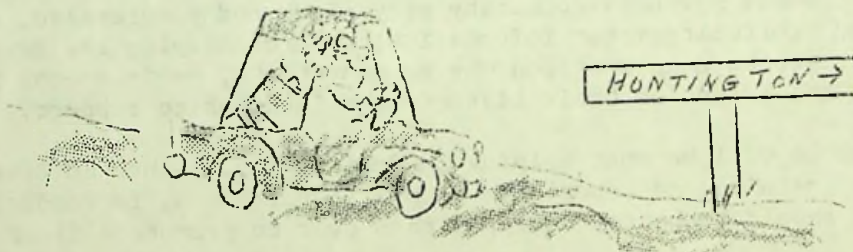
State Council is coming to Huntington, April 19 and 20, 1974, at the Gateway Inn. Huntington will have three delegates as well as our state board members. Kitty Pyles has been hard at work setting up the meetings. She has already contacted some members for help with typing stencils for the invitations and workshops, for registration desk workers, and for other miscellaneous jobs. If you'd like to help, she'd welcome your call at 522-2762.

All activities will be open to visitors. The schedule will be included in the next bulletin. This is a fine opportunity for members to learn how the League operates. State program and officers were chosen last year at State Convention, but council will provide direction on program for the next year.

League's operations sometimes seem mysterious, especially to new members. Visiting council is a good way to dispel this, as well as exposing us to other local League methods and members. We are the hosts and would like as many Leaguers as possible available.

At this time, the identity of the speaker is unknown, but the topic is to be juvenile services, a special concern of Huntington for several years, and a new item on the state program. We hope to have a number of members attend along with our delegates.

--Betty Barrett, President



EQ--Air

Air quality is being threatened during the current energy crisis, and National League is planning a continuing "Time for Action" to protect clean air standards and programs. At the local level we must all be alert to opportunities to educate the public as to the feasibility of abatement and the necessity in terms of health for it.

In this regard the State League president, Lois Kauffelt, presented a statement at the EPA hearings, conducted in regard to seven power companies' requests for extensions on air pollution control compliance schedules. The League statement refuted AEP's contention of unavailable technology by citing operational methods for sulphur emissions and readily available control for flyash. Refusal in the past by AEP to plan for environmental protection was evidenced as lack of good faith and intent to meet standards. Extensive misleading advertising by AEP with the intention of economic intimidation of local residents was mentioned, as well as compliance by smaller power companies. This was a tough and accurate statement. Unfortunately, the extensions were granted. The EQ chairman only wishes League could print the statement full page in the newspapers where those warm, friendly assurances from AEP once were.

EQ--Air (Continued)

League is currently supporting the full budget request of the West Virginia APCC for 1974-75. This request will add the services of an attorney to represent the commission and maintain salary levels appropriate for retaining technical personnel. Write Delegates Kincaid and Romine on the House Finance Committee and Senator Darby on Senate finance.

--Fonetta Collett, EQ Chairman

International Relations

Trade: After eight months of hard work, the LWV and its lobbying allies saw the Trade Reform Act pass the House by 272-140. That was round 1; round 2 is about to begin in the Senate.

Although the Senate Finance Committee originally said hearings would be scheduled "sometime in February", as yet no date has been set. The League has requested time to testify before the committee.

The League and other liberal trade groups are fairly satisfied with the House version of the bill, but there is room for improvement on some sections; and there is always the need to hold the line.

One factor which enhanced our effectiveness in the House was the new consensus. Some Ways and Means committeemen told our Washington office that the League was the one organization which could really make an impact on the weekend before the House vote. Having completed a recent study enabled our lobby corps to communicate current attitudes rather than appeal to tradition.

Senators Walter F. Mondale (D MN) and Abraham Ribicoff (D CT) have introduced amendments to the bill which at first glance the League seems inclined to support. Space precludes giving details here, but "Report From the Hill", January 16, 1974, carries specific information.

What is still needed is local coalition-building with likeminded organizations. So we are prepared for effective local action if our senators require prodding. We should get our viewpoint and our new pamphlet, "Trade Is Vital To West Virginia", into as many hands as possible.

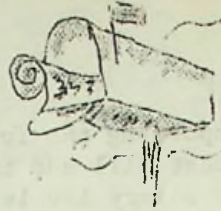
Have you a businessman friend or civic group which would benefit from receiving our pamphlet? If so, instruct Clair Matz to mail them a supply.

Foreign Economic Assistance Development Act: Congress cleared the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973 on December 5. The bill barely squeezed through: 44-41 in the Senate; 210-193 in the House.

A new requirement is that emphasis be placed on assuring help to the "little people", those with lowest incomes. The old broad authorizations for technical assistance and loans without designated purposes are gone. Nutrition, population planning, education, and credit union cooperatives are the new thrust.

--Clair Matz, Chairman
International Relations

LET'S
HEAR
FROM YOU



Opal Mann is the first person to accept the invitation to all members to express personal views in the bulletin.

WHY CONSUMER LEGISLATION?

Each person is a consumer from birth until death. Few laws have been passed to protect the consumer, because no one wants his particular industry or profession regulated by federal or state government.

Some of the areas under consideration in the legislature and congress are:

1. No-fault insurance
2. Warrantees and guarantees
3. "Holder in due course" doctrine in consumer credit
4. Fish inspection
5. The drug industry and others

It is important for the consumer to understand these bills and the effect upon them. For example, one clause in the no-fault insurance may be a compulsory clause which some think is bad.

Warranties and guarantees are very often misleading.

The "holder in due course" credit doctrine leaves the consumer no place to go for redress for delivery of bad merchandise or services.

Drug advertising is often misleading. Many other areas need laws to protect the consumer.

Most important of all is establishing an agency of government to take care of consumer problems or perhaps a Better Business Bureau, where the consumer may take his problems and records may be kept on the problems in order to better determine the future needs of the consumer.

It is almost certain some consumer bills will be passed this term of the legislature. We should study these bills to see if they are going to be sufficient to protect the consumer and give them some place to go for enforcement.

--Opal Mann

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