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Area Bulletin

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Bulletin, November 7, 1983

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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action packed POLITICS

Huntington Area. League of Women Voters

* BULLETIN *

November 7, 1983

C A L E N D A R

NOVEMBER

13 at 3:00pm
Sunday

LONG RANGE PLANNING & SURVEY MEETING. At Linda Rowe's 1007 Chesapeake Ct. 523-4475

16 at 7:30pm
Wednesday

*** EDUCATION...A NATION at RISK. At the Cabell County Vocational Tech, Cnt. 1035 Norway Ave. Open to the Public.

DECEMBER

8 at 7:30pm
Thursday

BOARD MEETING at Margaret Gerke's, 1805 Wilshire Blvd 529-4345. OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.

11 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm
SUNDAY

AFTERNOON WITH LEGISLATORS at Martha Woodward's. 1802 Wilshire Blvd. Open to all League members. Each guest is asked to bring a snack, the League will furnish the wine.

JANUARY

TAXATION UNITS: 3rd phase of the Tax Study. Date to be announced.

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BOARD SUPPORT FOR EXCESS LEVIES FOR THE OPERATION OF CABELL SCHOOLS:

The Board voted to support the renewal of the excess levies for the operation of the Cabell Co. schools and the Cabell Co. Public Library. This will provide \$29,663,305. over five years (July 1, 1985 to July 1, 1989)... approximately \$6 million annually for the schools and approximately \$400,000 for the library. The rate is the same as in the present levy per 100 dollars assessed valuation;

Class I - \$22.95
Class III - \$91.80

Class II - \$45.90
Class IV - \$91.80

There is a new provision for reducing the maximum rate if the state should provide new funds or if Cabell Co tax collection should increase markedly.

The election will take place on December 15 and will be conducted on paper ballots. The League will offer education about the election process and will provide speakers to interested organizations.

Martha Woodward

+++++

Linda Rowe, President
1007 Chesapeake Ct.
Huntington, WV 25701
523-4475

Lila Thompson, Treas.
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25701
522-3792

EDUCATION IN THE USA: A Nation At Risk? - November 16, 1983

7:30 - 10:00 pm Cabell Co. Vocational-Technical Center
1035 Norway Ave.

Panelists: Pat Hartman, Vice-Chair, Education Committee,
WV House of Delegates
Dr. Garth Errington, Superintendent, Cabell
Co. Schools
Robert Williams, Cabell Co. Education Associ-
ation and teacher, Enslow Jr. High School

Education

Background Information

In the last several years there have been many studies and discussions of the need to improve public education in the United States.

Many of the major studies have recommended a return to "basics"; they have stressed science and mathematics, the lengthening of school days or of the school year, higher standards for graduation, and firm requirements for discipline, homework, and grades -- among other things.

One report, "A Nation at Risk", asserts that state and local communities have the primary responsibility for education, including planning, financing and governing the schools.

The federal role, says the report, should be to protect constitutional and civil rights; collect data and statistics; support curriculum improvement and research on teaching, learning, and school management; support teacher training in areas of key national needs; and, in cooperation with the states, assist students with special needs, e.g. the handicapped, disadvantaged, and gifted.

Where the League Stands

The League of Women Voters, at the national, state, and local levels, has established positions on education and continues to study and provide information about educational issues. We also take action, when appropriate, in support of our positions.

In 1974, the Huntington Area League of Women Voters adopted a consensus position on education in Cabell County. The five main points of this position are:

1. (The League) believes the Board of Education should be responsive to all segments of the public.
2. supports system wide encouragement of parental involvement in the schools...
3. strongly supports STANDARDS for Cabell Co. schools ABOVE minimum legal state standards...
4. supports equality of educational opportunity for all students in the following areas: basic education; enrichment programs; funding; materials and equipment; achievement of potential; mainstreaming.
5. supports long range planning by the school system which would consider population shifts and expanding services as well as other pertinent factors.

The League of Women Voters of West Virginia holds positions on education dating back to 1959. The most recent consensus was reached in January, 1983: "LWVWV supports measures to ensure teacher competence in WV, including, in order of importance, upgraded teacher training, increased emphasis on evaluation of teachers, improved continuing education programs, and more stringent teacher certification requirements."

Serving the Membership

Are we setting meeting times that are convenient for you? Morning meetings start at 9:30 am at the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church with baby sitting available. Attendance has been disappointing.

Evening meetings are at 7:30 pm on Wednesdays and the meeting places vary. Please let Linda Rowe (523-4475), Helen Gibbons (736-3287), or any board member know if you would like a different meeting time. "We aim to please."

Helen Gibbons

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Looking Ahead You have an opportunity to provide input and become involved in the National League's Program...come to Linda Rowe's home on Nov. 13. at 3:00.

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“FROM: BETTY BARRETT”

Dialing 911 for emergency help is available in many cities. The Huntington Chamber of Commerce has been looking at starting such a program in Cabell County and the Wayne County portion of Huntington. Dialing 911 (free on pay telephones would immediately connect the caller to any city or volunteer fire department help, the police or sheriff, ambulance service, or other emergency help. Three League members have been participating in interviews with public officials responsible for emergency services, and have joined the local government committee of the Chamber in discussing feasibility of the program in this area.

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters board discussed the proposal at the last board meeting, and voted to support the concept, based on our position, under County Organization, supporting intergovernmental cooperation and consolidation of services at the local level. Therefore, we will make known our support, along with the Chamber of Commerce, and work to develop a plan.

As proposed by the Chamber committee, a separate Authority, funded by the government units involved, would operate a central area-wide emergency communication service. All calls would come into one place and appropriate emergency services would be dispatched.

Benefits are expected to include a faster response time saving lives and property, lower costs, better training for personnel, and an easily-remembered number for contacting all services. The possibility of gaining a federal grant for some of the costs is another benefit if officials act quickly.

Helen Gibbons, V.M. Galgano and Betty Barrett would be happy to provide you with more information. Watch for the announcement of our support, and we hope, prompt response by municipal and county officials.

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No bake sales! No benefit parties! No raffle tickets! No style shows! BUT the League does need the money all these projects would make -- and then some: So just pretend you have made two cheese balls, bought five raffle tickets, worked three hours at a rummage sale and have gone to a benefit party. Put it all together and send the League a contribution!

-- Helen Gibbons, Finance Drive Coordinator
736-3287

Community outreach on national security issues

Took consensus on Part 1 of National Security Study - Thanks to Clair Matz, Isabel Paul, Chloe Dunfee & those who prepared special flyers for all the meetings.

The TV panel included Dr. Matz, Miss Paul, Dr. Maddox & Mick Statton. This program will be shown on Saturday night and will include an appeal for citizens to make themselves heard in the decisions on National Security.

The second part of the study will be held in February with the Consensus on March 15. The following publications are excellent: Defense Spending & National Policy.

Please come and take action...

Nancy Taylor

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On Meetings and Membership.....

We want you to be a member of the League of Women Voters at ANY LEVEL of involvement you choose. The ONLY requirement for joining the League is that you be of voting age and pay your twenty dollars yearly dues (dues may be sent to the treasurer, Lila Thompson, whose address appears on the front of this bulletin). The best way to keep up with League activities and get the full benefits of membership is to come to meetings. All meetings are open to the public as well as to all members. No previous knowledge or experience is required. Some new and prospective members have expressed confusion about the structure of the League -- and no wonder; we're rather different from most other organizations. For one thing, we don't have monthly "business meetings"; we have monthly PROGRAMS. You will hear these programs referred to as "Unit Meetings" because there are usually two identical units of the same program - you just come to one. Sometimes the programs/units are discussions, sometimes lectures and films, sometimes they seem more like study groups. They are the heart of the league, where all the action is. If you're missing our programs you're missing a lot.

We do have monthly board meetings, which resemble the business meetings of other groups. Decisions, based on member input and direction, are made at board meetings. All members are welcome to pop in on our board meetings ANYTIME. We're very friendly, we'd love to hear your views and we have refreshments!

Finally, you can keep up with the League through this Bulletin, the state Voter, and the National Voter. You get all three with your \$20.00 dues.

One last thing: Once a year, in the Spring, the Huntington League has its ANNUAL MEETING. It includes luncheon, an interesting speaker, the installation of new officers. At the annual meeting members have the opportunity to give direction to the League's program for the coming year and to vote on a proposed menu of activities.

Have questions? Call me or any member of the board. I hope to see you at our next meeting, Nov. 16.

Linda Rowe, Pres. 523-4475

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Finance Drive: The LWV solicits money from the community rather than doing a fund raising project because our time is better spent on all the different projects we accomplish for the community.

The Cabell Co. book is at the printers...copies are free to all League members and contributors. This book describes Cabell Co. and municipal governments, taxes, court system, school system, public safety, health and sanitation, social services, etc., This information is not available anywhere in one publication.

-- Helen Gibbins

SUPPORT THE: C L E A N A I R A C T

Once again the time has come for League members to write letters in support of a strong Clean Air Act. Specifically we must work for strong action to control Acid Rain and Toxic Air Pollutants.

Sen. Jennings Randolph is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Com. and therefore, especially needs our letters. Urge him to:

- support a 12 million ton reduction in sulfur dioxide emissions within 10 years. Your senator should support either increasing the sulfur dioxide reduction goal of the Mitchell bill or shortening the deadline of the Stafford bill.
- Support amendments to strengthen control of toxic air pollutants.
- Oppose weakening amendments to the rest of the Clean Air Act.

Mitchell Bill S. 145

Stafford Bill S. 769

Here's some facts on ACID RAIN:

- Sulfates, the sulfur dioxide derivatives which cause acid rain, also pose a serious direct health threat, especially to those with lung disease, the elderly, and children.
- Acid rain is dissolving away our national heritage, causing \$2 billion a year in damages to buildings and monuments.
- Forests are suffering from stunted growth and dieback, and acid rain seems to be the culprit.

- The National Academy of Sciences estimates that acid rain costs the eastern U.S. \$5 billion a year in damages.
- Thousands of lakes and streams are already dead. Today, 9,000 lakes and 60,000 miles of streams are at the critical stage. The National Academy of Sciences warns that unless we take immediate action to control acid rain, the number of damaged lakes will double by 1990.
- Acid rain leaches toxic metals from the ground and from metal pipes into our drinking water supplies.

The Reagan administration's own reports documents this widespread damage. The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy has already recommended substantial reductions in sulfur dioxide emissions. The National Academy of Sciences has recently concluded that reducing sulfur dioxide emissions will reduce acid rain, thereby refuting industry's major argument against acting now to control acid rain.

The National Academy of Sciences recommends reducing annual sulfur dioxide pollution by 12 million tons.

ABOUT TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS: In the 13 years since the Clean Air Act was passed, EPA has regulated only 4 toxic air pollutants. Many more poisons remain unregulated.

- Up to 21% of lung cancers — 20,000 cases per year — could be prevented by better control of air pollution.
- Chemical carcinogens in urban air have been measured at 15 to 30 times naturally occurring levels.
- Production of synthetic organic chemicals has increased thirty fold in the last 40 years.

For six years, EPA has been studying 37 pollutants, 11 of which cause cancer according to the National Toxicology Programs; yet EPA has taken no regulatory action to protect the public.

We must break the bureaucratic logjam at EPA. The Clean Air Act should be amended to accelerate EPA's control of toxic air pollutants. If EPA continues to delay, these pollutants should automatically be considered toxic and regulations should follow. Standards should be set that truly protect the public health, requiring at a minimum the best pollution equipment already in operation.

Marcia Davoust
529-4406

SPECIAL

The West Virginia Citizens' Almanac 1984 will be available at the Education forum and other League meetings, and from Betty Barrett (525-5908). The 76 page book was published by the Workshop in Citizenship and Public Policy in the Marshall University Political Science Department, funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education of the US Department of Education.

Major subjects are the state budget process, textbook choice, the Recht decision, Highway Department procedures, criminal justice procedures, public housing and social services. Material is presented in calendar form highlighting important times for action.

The attractive and interesting book costs \$1.75 on the news stand, but you may receive one for only \$1. As one of the students who developed the book (it is so nice to see my name in print!), I guarantee you would not spend a dollar more wisely. Let me know if you would like a copy. *Betty Barrett*

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STUDY OF JURY DUTY

The LWV of WV adopted a program calling for the study of the system of selecting citizens for jury duty in West Virginia. The purpose of this study is to collect information that accurately describes the current jury system so that the League can consider any changes that might be proposed to improve the jury selection system.

Huntington Area League of Women Voters
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Take action. Join the League of Women Voters. Today.