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### League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin, April & May, 1975

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

April and May, 1975

Mrs. Clair Matz, President  
101 Cheyenne Trail  
Ona, West Virginia  
736-8256

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

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

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## C A L E N D A R

- Apr. 1 New Member Coffee. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Norway Avenue, 9:30 A. M. Regular members are hosts. Prospective members, welcome! Parking and baby sitters provided.
- Apr. 2 New Member Coffee. Kathleen Kowalski, 601 Ninth Avenue, 7:30 P. M.
- 18--19 LWV STATE CONVENTION. Ramada Inn, Morgantown.
- 29 Board Meeting. Beverly Hills Presby. Church, Norway Ave., 9:30 A. M.
- 30 General Meeting. Marshall University Debate Squad. Theme: Resolved, the powers of the presidency should be limited. Marshall University Student Center, Room 2E10, 8:00 P. M. Note: This is a change of date. The general meeting will be the unit meeting on the presidency, changed from May 6 and 7 to April 30.
- May 13 Taxation. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Norway Ave., 9:30 A. M.
- 14 Taxation. Kitty Pyles, 6341 Aracoma Drive, E. Pearidge, 7:30 P. M.
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## PLEASE NOTE!

An individual occasionally may be at odds with the League position and wish to make her personal views known. In that event she should refrain from mentioning her connection with League. Why? Because League's position is based on substantial member agreement. A member is entitled to disagree with that position but she is in a minority position as far as the League is concerned and should refrain from alligning herself with the League's name in this instance.

--Snitched from "Charleston Area Local Voter"

## WHERE THE ACTION IS!

The Annual Meeting. Welcome, Barbara Matz, League's newly elected president! Many thanks and high praise to Betty Barrett, League's new past-president!

If you were not able to attend the annual meeting, you will want to know that one correction was made to the local program. The wording of Election Procedures was changed to "Support of measures to improve the election process" instead of "Support of redistricting of precincts and improved election procedures". The rest of the program was approved as printed in the March bulletin.

The bylaw changes were approved as presented by the board. The changes make membership payments due by April, and unpaid members will be dropped by June 1.

The concurrence of local leagues on energy statement also passed; however, a few people objected to the method of adoption. The budget was approved and the new officers were elected as recommended by the nominating committee. Board members who will continue to serve for another year are Charlene Boggs, Lila Thompson, Gena Colburn, Ruth Prante, and Fran Norton.

Leaguers in Action. Has anyone opened a newspaper or turned on the TV news lately and failed to see or hear Sam Colvin? When do you sleep, Sam?

Competing with Sam is Clair Matz, who was featured in a special column and who also received recognition for his Model United Nations workshop at Marshall.

Betty Barrett was called to comment on the governor's State of the State address; Barbara Matz made the news with her strip mining remarks; Helen Gibbins and Martha Woodward did well over Channel 3 and Channel 13 with their discussions about Land Use Seminar; and all members who had coffee with "Morning with DJ" say it is an experience they will not soon forget.

Speakers Bureau. Kate McComas and Beth Bauserman enjoyed the privilege of talking before the Child Conservation League and the St. Paul Lutheran women about the juvenile justice system in Cabell county. The juvenile service committee has also been invited to join other organizations in the interest of coordination and cooperation of child care services in the Huntington area. The committee is also participating in a program, initiated by the Women's Club of Huntington, to learn and educate the community about law enforcement and administration.

The demonstration unit before the Wayne County Womens Club was great fun. Those participating were members of the juvenile service committee: Barbara Matz, Bette Bishop, Kate McComas, and Beth Bauserman. Mrs. Wellman, Wayne county probation officer, sent slides of jails, detention homes, and correctional institutions where children are kept in West Virginia. League should have had them during the juvenile service unit. They were hard to believe!

The Special Olympics for Handicapped Children. Members, who will not be able to attend the state convention, are invited by Doris Johnson to attend the Special Olympics to cheer for the children from the county's special education classes on April 18 and 19. Watch for time schedules in the local newspapers. After all, what is a contest without a cheering section!

Political Science Seminar. The voter service committee, March 18, Marshall University, was asked to evaluate a seminar--a task League is always glad to do.

Where the Action Is, Continued

Day at the Legislature. Twenty-five Huntington members attended the Day at the Legislature. Seventy-six league members throughout the state and a larger number than usual of legislators were there, but only two legislators from our section attended--Nelson and Childers.

NEW MEMBER, WELCOME!

Mrs. Erika Mininni (Frank)      736-6913  
1615 Campbell Drive                25705



NEW MEMBER COFFEE  
April 1 and 2, 1975

Now is the time to talk of many things: cabbages and kings, principles and program of League, results of the legislative session, the coming state convention, where League has been and where League is going. The new membership coffee will be a good orientation for new and old members. The beginning of a new year is a good time to get involved; one learns more if one is doing something.

Bring a guest.

"IF YOU GO TO SCHOOL,

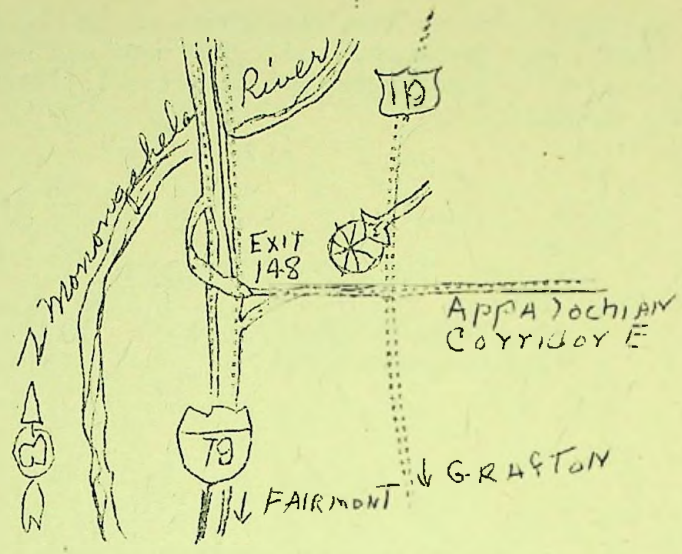
BUY GROCERIES,

DRINK WATER,

YOU ARE BEING POLITICAL!

THE LEAGUE CAN HELP YOU BE AN INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE POLITICAL BEING."

LWV STATE CONVENTION  
 Ramada Inn, Morgantown, W. Va.  
 April 18--19, 1975



Schedule

Friday, April 18	Saturday, April 19
12:00 Registration	8:00 Breakfast
2:00 Business Session	9:00 Business Session
6:00 Social Hour	12:00 Adjournment
7:00 Banquet	2:00 Check-out Time
Workshops	

The Huntington League is entitled to ten delegates for the state convention. If you are interested in representing Huntington, we have room for four delegates. Room and transportation is paid for you. You need only pay for your food. The convention banquet costs \$6.00. You will need to buy, in addition, two lunches and a breakfast.

Visitors are also welcome, but they will have to bear their own expenses plus \$1.00 registration fee.

Delegates representing the Huntington League are Vivian Phares, Charlene Doggs, Ramon Walton, Clair Matz, and Betty Barrett. Huntington members representing the state board are Helen Gibbins, Lila Thompson, Martha Woodward, and Beth Bauserman.

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"THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS NEEDS LITTLE INTRODUCTION TO ANYONE WITH THE MILDEST INTEREST IN POLITICS. IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN AS ONE OF THE MOST ENERGETIC, WELL-INFORMED, AND COMPETENT GROUPS OPERATING IN THE PURSUIT OF BETTER GOVERNMENT."

--From the Almanac of American Politics, 1974

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In recent months there has been legislative debate over whether the general sales tax on food should be exempted. Knowledge about a few fundamental aspects of the tax structure will clarify this issue and help in understanding other taxes.

Taxes may be regressive, the percentage taken decreases as the income increases, proportional, the same percentage is taken from all income groups, or progressive, the percentage taken increases as income increases. The tax we are most familiar with, the Federal Income Tax, is mildly progressive. State and local taxes are generally regressive. The overall tax burden, federal, local, and state, is regressive. One reason for the high percentages following is that some taxes, such as the B and O Tax, are shifted to the consumer in the form of higher prices. Figures from 1968 show that people with incomes below \$2,000 spend 40.3% of it in taxes; at an income level of \$8,000 to \$10,000, the percentage decreases to 29.8%; and the 40% rate is not reached again until income reaches \$50,000 or more.

The general sales tax in West Virginia is regressive. The lowest income group spends on the general sales tax a proportion of its income  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times greater than is spent by the highest income group. This tax would be more progressive if food and clothing were exempted. The General Sales Tax provides a major part of the budget (7.4%). It is stable, broadly based (Everyone pays it.), easy to pay, and easy to collect. The main drawback is the fact that it is regressive. It will probably remain a major source of income for the state.

--Ramon Walton, Chairman, Taxation

Editor's note:

Our West Virginia State Board has furnished us with one of the clearest, most readable booklets I have read on taxation. Get a copy from one of the unit meetings or from Lucy Cadwell. It is called "Reviewing Revenues".

Taxation is basic to all league studies. It is futile to recommend programs if programs cannot be funded.

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY DEBATE SQUAD

THEME: RESOLVED, THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENCY SHOULD BE LIMITED

Marshall University Student Center  
Room 2E10  
8:00 P. M.  
April 30, 1975

The national organization of college debate teams set the theme for the year on the presidency. This is League's good fortune, for the material and arguments made in the debate coincide with our study of the presidency, and offers a very good pro and con discussion of the problem. The Marshall Debate Squad is revamping the whole presentation just for League.

The debate is not a substitute for the regular unit; it is the unit.

Do come to this meeting to show League's hospitality and appreciation for the work of the Marshall team. Bring your husband. After the events of the past years, you know he will be interested. Bring other friends, too.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

"In any study of West Virginia county government, a student will be particularly impressed by the scattered, disjointed, and irresponsible type of organization that exists in all fifty-five counties. The present county government has no responsible head; it is without a chief administrative officer and the county court controls through appointment only a small part of the county administration. The voters of the county have very little power in the determination of county policies. In fact, there is nothing to commend the present form of county government in West Virginia. In some of the counties, it is grossly political, careless,, wasteful, and thoroughly inefficient. It has been this way for years, but still it exists and seems to flourish. Perhaps the reason for this is that the people of the state have not yet become aware of the possibility of establishing a different form of county government, which might be less costly, more efficient, and better able to meet modern conditions."

--West Virginia State and Local Government, Davis, Elkins, Frasure,  
Reeves, Ross, and Sturm

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

What is a public hearing?

Hearings are public meetings at which either elected or appointed officials come together to listen to citizens' opinions about an issue.

Who testifies at public hearings?

All citizens can and should use hearings to make their ideas known. Likewise, organizations interested in the issue should state their group's opinions. Testimony may be typed and sent to the hearing, but live presentation is more effective.

What should I do before the hearing?

Schedule your appearance before the meeting, if possible. Find out what the hearing rules are and follow them.

If possible, provide enough copies of your statement for those on the panel and for the press.

Try to have many supporters for your cause attend the hearing and refer to this support during your testimony.

What should I say in my statement?

1. Begin with your name, address, and title of group affiliation, if you are representing an organization.
2. Give a clear statement of what you support or oppose. Then offer your reasons.
3. Use facts and figures pertaining to the issue and how you obtained your facts.
4. If you oppose the proposal, specify why you think it won't work.
5. If you agree with parts of the proposal, but oppose others, speak to the positive first.
6. Suggest alternatives or compromises.
7. Point out consequences of inaction or "inadvisable" action.
8. Explain how the public interest will be affected by the proposal, who will benefit and how much it will cost.
9. Be prepared to answer questions. If you cannot answer questions, promptly prepare and submit the information requested to the panel.

Prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area from "Anatomy of a Hearing", League of Women Voters of the U. S., and "Public Hearings Game", Cooperative Extension Agency, West Virginia University.



NOTES AND QUOTES FROM THE LAND USE SEMINAR

"County court will have to get on the ball and start using the planning commission.....People are moving out of the city, not paying same taxes, but demanding same services.....Cabell is using federal funds now to provide county services."--Ted Johnson

"If this city and county go to metrogovernment, they will back into it."--Joe Kowalski

"West Virginia is one of only three states that does not give municipalities money from the state budget."--Barzy Evans

"Regional planning is a baby in an adolescent field."--Bob Myers

What is not flood plain, under the present legislation in this state, is virtually mountainside."--Charles Steele

"The most successful regional councils have citizen members who question rather than the political type appointees."--Charles McQueen

"The park board has cemeteries but no recreation."-- Charles Lewis

"People who live on a flood plain have the shortest memories I know."--Riley G. Baumgardner

"The right to swing your arms around stops (at the end of) the other guy's nose."--Barry Evans

"The workshop was one of the more informative workshops League has sponsored. The speakers were impressive, candid, and enlightening. The arrangements were performed efficiently, and the food was delicious. Sally Lemke, Margaret Krieger were in charge of registration; Pam Cappallari and Vivian Phares were hostess. Martha Woodward, Helen Gibbins, Sam Colvin, Jeannette Radcliff and other members of the committee deserve high praise for the management of the seminar."--interested League observer

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NOTICE

The bulletin editor is taking a vacation. You will not receive another bulletin until September.

Have a good vacation!  
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