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LWV Bulletin, November, 2003

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF HUNTINGTON



Helen Gibbins, President
6128 Gideon Road
Huntington, WV-25705
736-3287

Ann Logan Speer, Treasurer
706 Ridgewood Road
Huntington, WV 25701
525-2244

LWVWV website: www.LWVWV.ORG

LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

November 2003 Bulletin

NOVEMBER MEETING

RUNNING FOR OFFICE WORKSHOP

The Huntington League will sponsor a workshop for persons interested in running for public office in the elections of 2004. The location of the workshop will be the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. The time and date are 7 pm on November 17. Topics to be discussed are "Campaign Finance Laws", by Karen Cole, County Clerk; "How to Raise Money", Tom Scott; "Preparing the Message", Jean Dean; and "Reaching the Public", Joe Farrell. Martha Woodward will moderate the meeting. Thanks to Martha Woodward and Betty Barrett for organizing the meeting.

PATRIOT ACT II

On September 10, President Bush announced plans to expand the Patriot Act further. The LWVUS responded with a letter to the US Senate in opposition to expanding the abridgment of our civil liberties. Following are some quotes from the letter:

"Members of the League are steadfast in their conviction that the need to protect against security threats to America must be balanced with the need to preserve the very liberties that are the foundation of this country. There are fundamental principles that guard our liberty – from independent judicial review of law enforcement actions to prohibitions on indiscriminate searches – that must be preserved."

"We are deeply concerned with the Administration's plan, which would allow subpoenas to be issued without obtaining approval from judges or grand juries. We are equally concerned about proposals that would create an overly broad definition of terrorism so that government action could be directed against protesters and organizations that voice disagreement with the policies of the leadership of the U.S."

"In addition to threats to basic individual liberties that are central to our civic life, the League is concerned about the potential impact that the Patriot Act and proposals to expand it could have on the checks and balances of government. We believe that accountability and responsibility to the people require that unnecessary secrecy between the President and

Congress be eliminated. It is critical that Congress knows of the actions of the Executive and Judiciary branches and that the courts be kept apprised of and have the opportunity to review the actions of law enforcement. In addition, it is important for local and state governments to be able to work in concert with the federal government in the critical balancing of security concerns and individual liberties."

HUNTINGTON CITY COUNCIL

On behalf of the League, Mary Anderson spoke in favor of the Bill of Rights Ordinance, on its second reading, and increasing fees for the sewer system. In her statement on the sewer fees she stated, "...every effort should be made to maintain the system and upgrade it when necessary even if this should require increasing the service fees. It would be shortsighted to let the system deteriorate because Huntington's Council was unwilling to enact an ordinance that requires adequate fees. We know that allowing infrastructure to deteriorate will cost us far more in the long run than if we provide continual, adequate financial support now. A study of history recalls to us the days when raw sewage was allowed to run into our streets and rivers. Fortunately, our country has long recognized that we all need modern sewer systems. People may object to some of the requirements the state and federal governments have imposed on cities, but these requirements are necessary to prevent diseases. Without adequate funds, Huntington could end up with a third world sewer system, and eventually state regulators would step in to require that we pay for the necessary maintenance and upgrades. Because early on Huntington started to build its sewer infrastructure, we have been able to keep our fees lower than that charged in other areas of the county and most of the state. The League urges you to do what is prudent and vote to raise the sewer rates."

In response to a large number of the public expressing its support for the Bill of Rights ordinance, by a 6-5 vote the Huntington City Council voted in favor of the Ordinance; but only two members voted for increasing the sewer rates. Now the issue will be decided at the state level.

PRESIDENTIAL PUBLIC FINANCING SYSTEM

Along with other public interest organizations, the League urged all candidates running for the presidency to commit to fixing the presidential public financing system. The presidential financing system has served

the country and candidates well during its existence. We believe the system is in serious danger of collapse for future elections unless it is repaired. In order to help build faith in the political process and breathe greater meaning into the principle of "one-person, one-vote," comprehensive strengthening of the presidential financing system is needed."

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

November 15 is the date for celebrating recycling. Recycling is possible in Huntington. You may subscribe to BFI's curbside recycling program. It takes plastics 1 and 2, aluminum cans, newspapers, and junk mail (NOT glossy). Other recycling programs are at Goodwill's recycling center, 525 W. 19th St. It takes aluminum cans and paper products including newspapers, junk mail, catalogs, and corrugated cardboard. BFI on Route 2 also takes paper, aluminum cans, and plastics 1 and 2.

Many have asked why glass no longer can be recycled in Huntington. The problem is glass is not marketable. In order for recycling to work, there must be a demand from manufacturers.

One of the problems with recycling is that the public does not buy enough products made from recycled materials. There seems to be fewer paper products now on the market made from recyclables compared to a few years ago, although Marcal does make some of its paper products from recycled materials. Let us know where you find products made from recyclables so that we can alert those who are interested.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS FLYERS

Rose Riter is updating the flyers, and they will be available in the library. Changes to be made to the names on the January 2003 version are Cabell County Magistrates – delete Jim Earls and add Michael Woelfel; Huntington Officials, City Council – delete Richard Thompson and add Jim Riter; Barboursville Officials, City Council – delete Rick Keaton and Larry Poynter and add Paul Hockenberry and Donnie Plybon; Milton Officials, Mayor – delete Tommy Harbour and add Betty Sargent; Recorder – delete H.M Adams and add Jack Sayre; City Council – delete Jack Sayre and Eli White and add Kelly Lewis Mullins and Brian Leedy; Wayne County Magistrates – delete Gary Thompson and add Kent Mills.

LWV is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

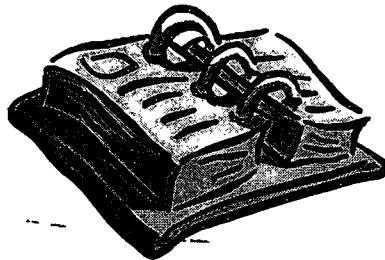
Membership in the League is open to women and men of voting age. Annual dues, not tax deductible, are \$40 individual, \$55 for two in one household, and \$24 for students.

To join, send your check to: Ann Spear, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701

LWV Huntington Area

Jane Husted, Editor

CALENDAR



November 17, 7 pm- Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Running for Office Workshop
November 24, 11:30 am- League's board meeting
January, 2004 Selecting the President

FINANCE DRIVE

In order to have adequate funding for League projects, we mail fund raising letters to prospective contributors. Checks may be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area, and mailed to 705 Ridgewood Rd. 25701. To be tax deductible the checks must be made out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Thanks to Virginia Hensley for preparing and mailing the finance letters, and to Frances Huddleston for writing the thank you notes.

HAVA (Help America Vote Act)

On October 23, the Senate passed an amendment to the Transportation and Treasury appropriations bill that funds the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The amendment provides the funds necessary to assist states in meeting the requirements of HAVA through 2004.

When HAVA was enacted in October 2002, Congress and the President entered into a new partnership with the states to ensure that the nation never again experiences the problems of the 2000 election. HAVA authorized federal funding and, in return, required states to improve election administration and protect voting rights through new requirements, including provisional ballots, statewide computerized voter lists, "second chance" voting that helps in the proper casting of ballots, and disability access.

While this is a major win demonstrating strong support in the Senate for full HAVA funding, the fight is not over yet. Differences between the House and Senate versions of the Transportation and Treasury appropriations bill still need to be worked out in conference committee. White House support of HAVA funding will be critical to maintaining the funding in the final version of the appropriations legislation.

ACTION NEEDED - Contact President Bush, by phone and by e-mail, and urge him to support full funding for the Help America Vote Act. Call the White House at (202) 456-1414. E-mail can be sent by clicking

MESSAGE: Full funding for HAVA is necessary to assist states in meeting their new obligations to ensure that every citizen has an opportunity to vote and to have that vote counted. Without full funding, a burden will be placed on states that are already suffering from budget deficits.

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