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LWV Bulletin, December, 1994

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December, 1994

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Dorothy Barenklau, President
63 Sequoia Drive
Huntington, WV 25705
736-4920

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

Meeting with legislators set

Our annual meeting with state legislators is scheduled for Monday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. at the home of Ann Speer, 706 Ridgewood Road. Directions - From the stop light on McCoy Road, Ann's home is on the right side of the street next to the 4th telephone pole. There will be many lights on to show the location. The house sits down from the road. Parking is available on the other side of the street.

We will discuss with our state legislators the West Virginia League's 1995 legislative priorities. These priorities include: EDUCATION-- Support of equal educational opportunity and adequate funding of public education in the State, HUMAN RESOURCES/HEALTH CARE-- Support for health care coverage for all poor children and expansion of family planning programs, NATURAL RESOURCES--Environmental Impact Assessments; funding for enforcement of environmental laws; elimination of conflict of interest in the structure of the Bureau of the Environment; and support of implementation of Amendment 3, REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE--Support of reproductive rights, STATE GOVERNMENT/ELECTION LAWS--Support for campaign finance reform and TAXATION--Support of additional revenue sources for local governments; opposition to any increase in the Homestead Exemption and any other constitutional changes which would reduce the potential of the property tax.

League members are asked to bring finger foods for refreshments, but if you do not have time to fix something, please come to the meeting anyway.

75th anniversary plans

Posters, displays, skits, TV shows and possibly a lecture/discussion at Marshall University are just a few of the activities and events planned for LWV Huntington Area to mark the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. Mary Robson and her committee are creating the exciting schedule. Specific dates, times and places are forthcoming so be sure to be looking for them.

Thank you

Thank you to League member Martha Woodward for making the arrangements with the Yeager Scholars, Marshall University and Mayor Jean Dean for the November meeting.

Need a ride??

Anyone needing a ride to LWV meetings can call either Dorothy Barenklau, 736-4920 or Nancy Taylor 522-3361.

Voter Service

League members answered voter questions on Election Day ranging from "Where is my polling place?" to "Who do I contact if the polling place is not handicap accessible?"

Eighty calls were answered and a few lost because of backup on the phone lines.

Thanks to Mary Robson, Rose Riter, Nancy Taylor, Mary Anderson, Jeanne Wulfman, Bernice Steirn and Bette Bishop for working the phone shifts and to WOWK-TV for providing space and phone service.

Who are the uninsured?

While it is true that many people who lack health insurance come from families with modest incomes, most of the uninsured are not, in fact, the very poor. More than two-thirds of those who lack insurance live in families with incomes above the federal poverty line. It's also a myth that most of the uninsured are also unemployed. An overwhelming proportion of those without insurance--84%--live in a family in which someone works either full or part time.

Also untrue is that the uninsured are that way by choice--mostly young healthy people who neither need nor want insurance. In fact, more than half of the uninsured are adults over age 24, and another 22% are children. 93% of the uninsured tell pollsters they want coverage. The most common reason the uninsured don't have coverage, they say, is that they simply can't afford it. While affordability is a subjective measure, health coverage for an average family today costs more than \$5000 a year, nearly a seventh of the median family income of \$36,812. (From LWV Education Fund report of "Critical Choices in Health Reform".)

Health care video available

A two part video on health care is available from Nancy Taylor, 522-3361. Tape I "Sealing the Cracks" is a faith perspective on health care reform. Tape II "Working Principles" assesses national health care legislation. The tapes were produced by the Office of Health Ministries, USA, Social Justice Program Area, Presbyterian Church (USA).

Free Publication

The Division of Environmental Protection now publishes "inDEPth" monthly. It includes the status of permits; calendar of hearings, meetings and events; environmental news items, and action taken on environmental infractions. Contact "inDEPth", 10 McJunkin Rd., Nitro, WV 25143 to receive copies.

Task Force on Gender Fairness

The West Virginia Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Fairness in the Courts is investigating the extent to which gender bias exists in the court system and its effect on people who use or work within the court system. The task force is documenting incidents of bias and discrimination based on gender and will make recommendations to stop bias and discrimination.

The address for the Task Force in PO Box 5436, Charleston, WV 25361.

UNICEF

Since the inception of the UNICEF greeting card program, a total of \$500 million has been raised to immunize children against polio, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough and diphtheria. Advancements have been made in many areas of young people's lives but there are still millions of children suffering world-wide. UNICEF cards do make a difference: the proceeds from the sale of just one greeting card can treat a child with tuberculosis for two weeks; the proceeds from 10 greeting cards can provide 130 capsules of antibiotics.



U.S. population, currently 260 million, is the third highest in the world. The nation adds more people--about 3 million--to its population every year than any other industrialized nation.



Join LWV to:

1. Stay informed about the issues
2. Make your views heard
3. Sharpen your skills and learn new ones
4. Receive LWV publications

Your membership alone gives us the political clout we need to continue to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. Join today!

The LWV is a nonpartisan political 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 \$30 individual, \$45 for two in one household.

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

LWV Bulletin

Calendar

- Dec. 5 LWV meeting with Legislators 7:30 p.m., Ann Speer's home 706 Ridgewood Road.
- Jan. 11 WV Legislature begins 60 day session.
- Jan. 23 LWV Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church.
- Jan. 30 LWV Meeting, 5:00 p.m. Enslow Park Presbyterian Church Action '95, LWVWV legislative priorities.
- Feb. 14 Women's Day @ the Legislature, will include 75th anniversary of LWV and Women's suffrage celebration.
- Feb. 15 "One Woman-One Vote" WPBY-TV 8:30 p.m.

Miscellany

According to a Bank of America study analyzing the effect of environmental standards on economic growth, between 1978 and 1991, the states with the highest standards grew fastest; states with the strongest standards averaged yearly growth of 2.6%; states with moderate standards, 2.29%, and states with weak standards, 2.15%. (From Common Ground, Jan/Feb 1994)

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