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LWV Bulletin, September, 2013

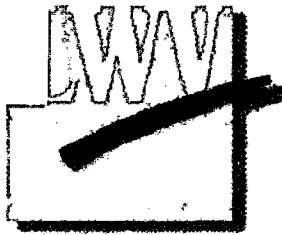
League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



Helen Gibbins, President
6128 Gideon Road
Huntington, WV 25705
304-736-3287

Ann Speer, Treasurer
706 Ridgewood Rd.
Huntington, WV 25701
304-525-2244

LWVWV website: [www: LWVWV.ORG](http://www.LWVWV.ORG)
LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG
September 2013 Bulletin - Patricia Keller, Editor

The 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 \$45 individual, \$60 for two in one household and \$24 for students. To join, send your check to: Ann Speer, Treasurer, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

LWV MEETING, SEPTEMBER 16

Jeanette Rowsey will present a slide show and talk about Barboursville's place in West Virginia history, from her upcoming Bicentennial history book, *The Lost Village of Barboursville*. The presentation will include highlights of the town's African American family history. She will also highlight several Barboursville women who had an impact on local history. Join us at Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Norway Avenue, 7 pm. Guests are welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Giovanna Deveny and Joyce Levy for being members of the League for 50 years. Giovanna talks about the education she gained through being active in the League that directed her towards a social studies teacher profession. Joyce's involvement in the League directed her towards serving on a Huntington charter committee.

And to Christie Kinsey, who was chosen by Gov. Tomblin to serve on the Marshall U. Board of Governors.

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Isabel Spindell. Isabel experienced a long and interesting life, including a teaching career, a love of the opera, and extensive traveling. Isabel started the League's candidates meetings at Woodlands.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

Regular dues are single members - \$45; two in one household - \$60; full time college students - \$25. You may send you dues payment to Ann Speer, 706 Ridgewood Rd., Huntington, WV 25701. If you know

someone who would like to join the League, let them know that new members' dues are half price.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Starting in October the uninsured may purchase insurance through the WV Health Insurance Marketplace, where approved private health insurance products are sold to individuals and families. The policies may be purchased in person or through a web site, a toll free call center, or the mail. The SHOP Marketplace is designed to allow small businesses, those with fewer than 50 full-time equivalent employees, the option of purchasing group health insurance for themselves and their employees. Also Medicaid has been expanded to more persons with low incomes. (From West Virginians For Affordable Health Care)



If you wish to understand better how the ACA will benefit our citizens, go to West Virginians For Affordable Health Care and/or the AARP websites.

MOVIES sponsored by the League this summer included

Electoral Dysfunction and *A Place at the Table*. At the League's request the library bought *A Place at the Table*. Both movies are also available from Netflix.

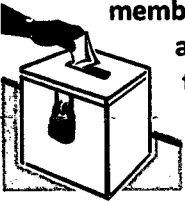


So far the US House and Senate have not come to agreement about extending the food assistance programs for the needy. The House deleted food assistance programs from the Agriculture bill, but leaders have said they plan to pass a separate bill on food assistance programs. The Senate reduced the

amount of funds dedicated to food assistance in its version of the Agriculture bill. Contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com, if you are interested in receiving information about the federal food assistance programs.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT ACTION

Earlier this summer the U.S. Supreme Court erased fundamental protections against racial discrimination in voting that have been critical in protecting our democracy. The damage to the VRA can and must be fixed – Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. **Tell your members of Congress to work quickly to repair and restore the VRA. An easy way to take action is to go to the LWVUS Voting Rights Act website. You will enter your zip code to contact our members of Congress**



For nearly half a century, the Voting Rights Act has struck down attempts at voter suppression and helped ensure that our voting system is free, fair, and accessible. The VRA helped the U.S. Department of Justice block hundreds of racially discriminatory voting measures. When in June the U.S. Supreme Court dismantled Section 4, immediately, the floodgates opened and several states rushed to implement discriminatory laws that had previously been blocked under the VRA. Meanwhile North Carolina held a last minute legislative session and passed anti-voter laws that pose negative effects for all voters -- black and white, young and old, rich and poor alike. The League of Women Voters of North Carolina (LWVNC) went straight to action, filing a federal lawsuit to challenge the voting restrictions as racially discriminatory.

Before adjourning for the August recess, both the Senate and the House of Representatives held hearings to begin discussing solutions to discrimination at the polls and the path forward for the VRA. We were encouraged by what we witnessed – members from

both sides of the aisle expressing a need to address the Supreme Court's mistake and vowing to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens.

In another promising move, the U.S. Justice Department in July vowed to use the remaining tools under the VRA to prevent discrimination in voting, but it is unknown whether this action will be successful.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The League is planning two meetings in the spring, Civil Liberties and an update on our LWVUS Agriculture position. Marcia Daoust has agreed to chair the Civil Liberties forum, but needs help in the planning of the forum.

We also need a committee to present the information to our League on the Agriculture study/consensus meeting. The materials are being prepared by the LWVUS. The study will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues, including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Please contact Helen Gibbins, gibbins@frontier.com, if you are interested in serving on either or both committees.

CALENDAR



September 16, 7 pm. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. History of Barboursville, presented by Jeannette Rowsey

September 23, 11:30 am. LWV Huntington Area board meeting.

October 28, 7 pm. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. Sen. Bob Plymale. "Select Committee on Children and Poverty". Co-sponsored by the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

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