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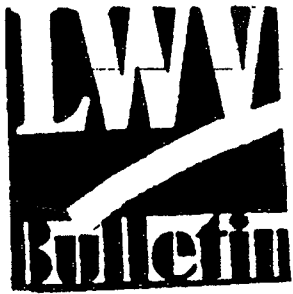
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### LWV Bulletin, May, 2001

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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March 2001

## March meeting—the early years important to future success of children

The March meeting of the Huntington Area League of Women Voters is scheduled for Monday, March 26, 7:30 p.m. at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church. Gerry Sawrey, Director of Federal Programs for the Cabell County Board of Education and a founding member of the Success by 6@ committee will be the presenter.

Success by 6@, a program of the United Way of the River Cities, was started in response to the recent brain research indicating early childhood—the prenatal period through the beginning of school—is a unique developmental period that serves as a foundation for behavior, well-being, and success later in life. The Success by 6@ committee is seeking to insure that all children, birth to 6, in the River Cities will have access to the resources and experiences they need to be successful.

Each and every person in our community has an opportunity to enrich the lives of our children and help them realize their full potential. Infancy is not a dress rehearsal. From birth to six, just about everything matters for a young child's brain to thrive. He needs to be loved, held, talked to, read to and allowed to explore. Everyone plays a role in the development of children.

Bring a friend to learn how “the first years last forever”.

## Budget Digest lawsuit

*(From the Wood County LWV bulletin)*

More oral arguments were heard in the WV Supreme Court on February 6 on the lawsuit concerning the Legislature's handling of the Budget Digest and the Governor's 098 account, a contingency fund of money appropriated to the Legislature and transferred to the Executive. The League of Women Voters of WV is a party to the suit.

The main point of contention over the Digest seems to be whether the decisions about where money will be spent do indeed carry out the intent of the Legislature or are in fact made after the session is adjourned by a small group acting on requests which may or may not have been submitted while the Legislature was still in session.

The 098 account dispute is over whether it is proper for the legislative branch to transfer funds which have been appropriated for its use to another branch of government and then allow the Speaker to decide where they will be spent.

A decision will probably not be handed down for several months.

## Legislative updates

Information about legislative action, status of bills, and legislators and their committees are available on the legislature's website - [www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us)

Public TV features the Legislature Today at 6:30 pm and 11:30 pm on weekdays. Public Radio covers legislative action on its weekday 4:30 program.

## Antidegradation of our waters

The League of Women Voters supports legislation which would implement WV's antidegradation policy to protect our waters. We are displeased with the action of the WV Legislative Rule Making Review committee when it adopted a bill which was written by an industry coalition, instead of the rules submitted by the Environmental Quality Board. The Board had gone through proper procedures and a long process for preparing the rules -- a stakeholders' group, public hearings, and input from industrial and public interest groups.

The House Judiciary Chair Jon Amores is working with representatives from industry, the environmental community, and the W.V. Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) to come to agreement on the issues. A letter from the federal EPA said that the industry bill is riddled with problems, and that the compromise proposal written by the state DEP should be the vehicle for any further negotiations on the antidegradation rule before the legislature.

The League will be voicing its concerns to the legislature.

## Changes in "PUBLIC OFFICIALS" and "GUIDE TO THE LEGISLATURE" flyers

\*Jim Morgan replaced Arley Johnson in the 15th Delegate District when Arley resigned to take an office in the Wise administration.

\*Due to ill health Ben Bagby resigned as County Clerk. Karen Hanna-Cole is serving as acting County Clerk.

\*Rik Baumgardner resigned from the Cabell County Board of Education to take a position in Huntington's government.

\*Gordon Ramey II was hired as Chief of Police in Huntington.

## SUMMER FUN 2001

We are presently compiling information for this brochure which lists healthy, educational and entertaining activities for children during the summer. Response has been great from the providers of the services. Help will be needed to distribute the brochures to Cabell and Wayne County schools and agencies across the Tri-State area. If you can help, especially during the week of May 14, please call Julie Damewood at 522-2340 or email her at damewood@marshall.edu.

### Quick facts about early brain development

- - At birth the brain is remarkable unfinished. A child is born with many millions of brain cells which need connections for a child to handle thinking and remembering, as well as emotional and social behavior.
- - Interesting and surprising to some, a child's brain begins maturing when he is born-therefore young children are deeply affected by their early experiences. 62% of parents, in a survey conducted by zero to 3, believe that a child does not begin to "take in" and "react to" their world until 2 months of age.
- - Every sight, sound, smell and feeling they experience doesn't just influence their mood, they actually affect the way their brains become "wired" (connections made). In fact a child as young as 6 months who witnesses violence can have long-lasting, detrimental effects on his social and emotional development and his developing brain. (What Grown-Ups Understand About Child Development: A National Benchmark Survey)
- - Just as a baby's body needs food to grow, science now tells us that the **positive** emotional, physical, and intellectual experiences that a baby has in the earliest years are equally necessary for the growth of a healthy brain.

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 \$35 individual, \$50 for two in one household and \$24 for students.

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

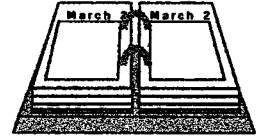
# LWV

Huntington Area

# BULLETIN

Sally K. Adkins, Editor

### Calendar



- March 26** Success by Six League meeting 7:30 p.m. Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Gerry Sawrey, speaker.
- March 30** MU Honors Convocation, 7 p.m. Joan C. Edwards Theatre, David Halberstam, "The Culture of Celebrity", reception and book signing to follow, free and open to the public.
- April 3** Barboursville Primary Election
- April 19, 20** Earth Day At Marshall U.
- April 23** Annual Meeting; speaker, State Superintendent of Schools Dr. David Stewart.
- April 28** LWV State Convention, Shepherdstown.

## STATE CONVENTION

The League's state convention is in historic Shepherdstown on April 28, 9:30-3. A house and garden show in Berkeley and Jefferson County is also featured on that week-end. A Friday night reception for League members is on the agenda..

Consider a mini-vacation in the beautiful Eastern Panhandle by attending our state convention. Let Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, know if you can attend. She will make the necessary arrangements.

### Welcome to new members . . . . .

Richard and Beth Thompson. Richard is a member of the House of Delegates from Wayne County. Beth has already agreed to help with Summer Fun.

### Congratulations to . . . . .

Edna Duckworth. She received a "Woman of Color" award at Marshall University. Edna has volunteered in the community in many capacities, particularly in furthering black history. She is also a poet.

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