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Huntington Area League of Women Voters Bulletin, February 13, 1986

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action packed POLITICS

Huntington Area League of Women Voters

BULLETIN February 13, 1986

* * * * * CALENDAR * * * * *

FEBRUARY

Tuesday, 18 9:30am

Program/Concurrence Meeting: "Overcoming Obstacles to Jury Service". Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church Corner Green Oak & Norway. Babysitting available.

Thursday, 20 7:00pm

Program/Concurrence Meeting: "Overcoming Obstacles to Jury Service". Cabell Co. Public Library - Downtown. (identical to Tues. morning program)

MARCH

Monday, 3 7:30pm

Board Meeting, home of Chloe Dunfee, 818 13th Ave.

Saturday, 15 10:00am

ANNUAL MEETING, Huntington LWV, followed by Luncheon. Speaker: Dr. Robert Frum, Superintendent of Schools, Cabell Co. Steak 'N' Kettle restaurant, 1526 Madison Ave. \$6.50 per person (see below for reservation information).

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ANNUAL MEETING TIME!

The Huntington League of Women Voters' Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, March 15, beginning at 10:00am at the Steak 'N' Kettle restaurant, 1526 Madison Ave. Our luncheon speaker will be Cabell County's Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Frum.

The annual business meeting will begin at 10:00am. Members will adopt a program including the governmental areas we will support or study, elect 1986-88 officers, and adopt the 1986-87 budget. Members will receive another mailing concerning the Annual Meeting. It will provide information on the budget, proposed program, and nominations.

Lunch will be a buffet consisting of soup, salad bar, several choices of meat and vegetables, dessert and beverage. The price is \$6.50.

Please make reservations with Doris Gladney, 525-6620 or Chloe Dunfee, 525-5339 by March 8. Guests are welcome. ALL members are urged to attend. And remember, Annual dues are due at this meeting: \$25 individual, \$37.50 household (2 members).



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

Linda P. Rowe, Editor
1007 Chesapeake Ct.
Huntington, WV 25701
523-4475

Lila Thompson, Treasurer
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25705
522-3792

Overcoming Obstacles to Jury Service

The first half of the West Virginia League of Women Voters' study of jury selection was completed last year. The second half of the study deals with obstacles already-selected jurors face, which could prevent them from serving: problems such as health, age, transportation, job, etc. These potential jurors frequently call the judge and cite these obstacles as reasons not to serve. Sometimes the judge excuses them; sometimes not. The League's goal is finding a means of overcoming these obstacles in order to achieve the U.S. Supreme Court's goal of a truly democratic jury that represents "a fair cross-section of the community" and allows "all citizens an opportunity to participate in the judicial process."

For more information about our concurrence statement, please read the complete article in your October, 1985, WV VOTER. (Helen Gibbins, 736-3287, has a few extra copies.)

Following is the concurrence statement which League members will be asked to agree or disagree with:

The WV League of Women Voters believes that most obstacles to jury service could be eliminated by a severely shortened term of jury service, such as the one trial/one day system that causes the prospective juror less inconvenience and economic hardship. Such a court system should be efficient and might initially include:



- (1) computer selection of names from several source lists,
- (2) a combination qualification and summoning process,
- (3) use of first-class mail for summons,
- (4) a monitoring system in order to predict demand for jurors,
- (5) use of a telephone call-in system,
- (6) the possibility of overall lower per diem pay on the first few days of jury service, and...
- (7) a county-by-county gradual phase-in of the new court system.

Usually, when Leagues study issues in order to arrive at a position for action, they use the consensus process. League members study, discuss, and then answer questions related to the issue. These answers are sent to the local, state, or national board where they become the position for action.

The concurrence process starts with a pre-determined position. League members will still hear the facts and discuss the issue before they choose to agree or disagree with the position.

We do encourage League members and other interested persons to take part in our study/discussion meetings. Where else can you focus your discussion on one governmental issue presented factually, and with the intent of subsequent action?

The concurrence on Jury Selection will be considered at meetings planned for February 18 and 20. Presentations will be made by Kirstin and Charles Bagley, Chairs of our Jury Selection committee and by Helen Gibbins, president. Following the Jury Selection discussion there will be an update on the West Virginia Legislature's 1986 Session. The two meetings are identical in content and open to the public.

-- Helen Gibbins, Pres. 736-3287

THE LEAGUE IN ACTION

Here are some recent activities and accomplishments of the Huntington Area League of Women Voters:

- * Spoke on environmental concerns to a Marshall University public health nursing class.
- * Lobbied and wrote to our legislators on upcoming issues in the 1986 Legislative Session (see the state VOTER concerning the issues).
- * Contacted Congressman Rahall concerning the proposed legislation on federal taxes.
- * Attended the presentation of the Greater Huntington Park District's Recreation Plan.
- * Met with Michael Thompson, social studies supervisor for Cabell County schools, to plan for the promotion of voting among 18-year-old voters.
- * Spoke to Southeast Lions Club on WV Legislature.
- * Presented information on the State Property tax reappraisal program on WGNT-radio, WOWK-TV - Action Newsmakers program and Guest Editorial.
- * Appeared on television to discuss the Jury Selection Process in WV.

GETTING THE LEAGUE JOB DONE

★ Several committees have started to work and can always add new members. If you'd like to get involved, contact the designated leaders:

Hazardous Wastes/materials: Bette Bishop, 736-1012.

Recreation Flyer: Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

Voters Service: Frances Huddleston, 736-4452.

Social Policy, Local Taxes, Annexation: Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

Duplicating the local Bulletin (we need 300 copies of a 4 to 6 page newsletter each month, we supply paper and camera-ready copy) - do you have access to a copy machine?: Linda Rowe, 523-4475.

★ Our Board likes to meet in non-board-members' homes so that more League members will be up-to-date on League and governmental activities. Only beverages are served. Usual Board mtg. date is the first Monday of each month. If you would like to host a Board meeting, contact Doris Gladney, 525-6620.

★ Board Resignations: Barbara Cienfuegos, due to heavy career work load; Susan Hubbard, because she is running for Office.

★ Hot off the Press! The Nuclear Waste Primer, published by LWVUS. Cost is \$3.00 to League members, \$5.95 to others. If you wish to order this, contact Dorothy Fisher.

★ Report from the Hill. Members can order this useful newsletter on National political action for only \$6.00/year from the LWVUS. The Huntington League will gladly pay for the subscription of any member who feels s/he can use this information. Contact Dorothy Fisher or Helen Gibbins.

★ National Program: In the latest issue of the National VOTER the proposed program for 1986-88 was described. If you wish to make a comment concerning any of the proposals, please notify Helen Gibbins, 736-3287 or any other board member. (Messages can be left with Linda Rowe, 523-4475). The Board will make a decision on the proposals at the March 3 Board meeting.

A PLACE FOR YOU

Whatever level of involvement is possible, there's an important place for you in the League of Women Voters: a bigger place in the political process.

Join the League of Women Voters of Huntington Area. Today.

To Join the Huntington Area League of Women Voters, mail this coupon and dues check (payable to Huntington LWV) to Lila Thompson, Treas., 2738 Washington Blvd., Huntington, WV 25705. Dues are \$25 individual and \$37.50 for two members in the same household.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit, non-partisan organization open to all men and women of voting age.



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Huntington Area League of Women Voters
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25705

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