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League of Women Voters of the Huntington  
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### **LWV Bulletin, November, 1993**

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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NOVEMBER, 1993

# HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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## Update on Solid Waste in Huntington

Several years ago the Huntington City Council voted in favor of building a landfill to replace the one at Dietz Hollow. It would be located adjacent to the present one. Since that time there have been many changes which should affect the final decision on building a new landfill.

The costs of constructing a landfill have gone up considerably because of state and national requirements for siting, double liners, leachate collection and treatment, ground water monitoring, methane control, and closure costs. It is estimated that a new landfill for Huntington will cost from \$24 to \$30 million. Realizing that the costs will be large, recently Huntington's City Council voted to contest the state's requirement for the closure of Dietz Hollow in September, 1994. It also contested the state requirement for citywide curbside recycling to start in January, 1994.

The amount of solid waste which is disposed of at Dietz Hollow has decreased because of recycling, medical and construction and demolition wastes being disposed of at other facilities, and the reduction of waste from commercial haulers due to increased fees on them. Further reductions in waste will come when the state mandated citywide recycling program is implemented and from composting. Yard wastes are banned from WV landfills as of June, 1994. The City Council passed a flow control ordinance requiring commercial haulers in Huntington to dispose of their solid waste at Dietz Hollow. It has never been contested in court. If it were contested and the city lost the case, Huntington could not depend on commercial waste, the largest part of the waste stream.

The only stable amount of solid waste has been from city trucks which haul residential waste. These trucks do not now pay a tipping fee at the City's landfill.

With the decrease in waste going to the landfill, one must question whether the amount of waste generated at a Huntington landfill can pay back the bonds needed to build a new one. Certainly it will be necessary to charge tipping fees for residential garbage in order to pay back the bonds. Those who favor Huntington building a landfill are fearful of contracts with private landfills. They believe Huntington would be captive to rising fees; however, if the trash were to be hauled to a private landfill in WV, the fees would be subject to review by the WV Public Service Commission. Whatever decisions are made, the costs for pickup and disposal of residential garbage will go up.

If Huntington were to decide not to build a landfill, it would be eligible to receive money from the state to pay for closing the present landfill (another huge cost). Nearby private landfills are available in Wayne County, Putnam County, and Kentucky. If Huntington's trash were to be hauled elsewhere, it would be first disposed of at a transfer station, a large hauling vehicle.

At present, it appears that the residents of Huntington are not paying anything for garbage pickup and disposal. (Those in apartments of more than 4 units pay because their garbage must be picked up by commercial haulers.) An analysis of the City budget shows that the City spent more on fire and floodwall expenses than what is

(See "Landfill", page 3)



## Facts About the United States Health Care System

--In 1992, the United States spent \$838.5 billion--more than 14% of the nation's total economic output--on health care.

--In the United States, one of every seven dollars is spent on health care.

--According to a 1991 poll, three out of every ten Americans said they or someone in their household decided not to change jobs for fear of losing their health care coverage.

--Up to 24 cents of every health care dollar pays for administrative costs.

--In 1991, more than 12% of all U.S. children were uninsured.

--More than one million babies are born each year to women who received no prenatal care.

--Every \$1.00 spent on childhood immunizations saves \$10.00 in later medical costs.

--League of Women Voters  
of U.S. Education Fund,  
June, 1993.

*Our belated but heartfelt  
sympathy goes out to  
Diana Waldron  
in the loss of her mother  
this past September.*

## What is Environmental Shopping?

Environmental Shopping can be defined as "considering the environmental impact of the products we buy and selecting *environmentally friendly* products and packaging when we have a choice".

Because of past studies and general consensus, the League has taken action on many environmental issues at the local, state, and national levels. But, we also believe that in order to more fully realize our goals it is incumbent on everyone to engage in environmentally responsible practices in everyday life.

To learn more about making environmentally responsible purchases, we encourage you to attend the November meeting. Bring a friend!

League Meeting, NOV. 15

## Fund Raising

Anna Csernica is coordinating the League's fund raising drive again. Letters have been mailed to potential contributors. The income from dues does not cover the expenses of the League activities such as, publications provided to the public and necessary research and clerical work for voter service activities.

If you wish to make a contribution to the League, send it to:

Dorothy Barenklau, Treasurer  
63 Sequoia Drive, Huntington, WV 25705

To be tax deductible, contributions must be made out to the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

## Landfill (from page one):

collected from the municipal fee. The property and utility taxes do not cover the costs of police protection. Landfill fees are paid only by commercial haulers. The B & O tax on businesses covers the deficits and everything else, including sanitation.

Can Huntington afford to continue to subsidize the costs of garbage pickup and disposal for its citizens? How important is it for Huntington to have its own landfill? What will be the most economical plan for our businesses and residents? These are all questions that need to be resolved. We hope that Huntington's citizens will become knowledgeable and voice their opinions on these solid waste issues.

(Some of the material for this article was taken from Sam Colvin's Study prepared for the Cabell County Solid Waste Authority.)

## League News & Activities

An Environmental Shopping Talk was presented to the Geneva-Kent Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA), last month.

Congratulations to Nancy Francis, the newly elected president of the MU Foundation, Inc.

October 27, 1993, the Huntington Area League of Women Voters, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of West Virginia, hosted a "Forum on Realistic Approaches to Local Finance," at the Jr. League Community Center in Huntington. The League wishes to thank the Forum presenters:

Lois Kauffelt, author of "Financing Local Government".

Dr. Troy Stewart, Chair, Department of Political Science, Marshall University.

Jean Dean, Mayor of Huntington.

Thomas Esposito, Mayor of Logan.

John Hoff, Executive Director for the WV Association of Counties.

Gerry McDonald, President and CEO, Huntington Area Development Council, Inc.

The League also wishes to thank all members who contributed to the success of the Forum.

### A Welcome to New Members

We welcome these new and rejoining members to the Huntington League:

Mary Anderson  
1423 Grove St.  
523-2032

Doris Johnson  
2403 9th Ave.  
522-3877

Margarette Leach  
1538 Rugby Rd.  
523-3055

Caroline Perkins  
114 Forest Park Lane  
523-6578

### HELP WANTED

The League is currently looking for a person interested in and willing to serve on the League's Board of Directors, Government.

To submit your name, contact:

Sue Davis, 528-5049.

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## Calendar



### NOVEMBER

- 13 "Can Local Government Survive in West Virginia?", A Conference for Action, Charleston Civic Center, 10a. - 4p.
- 15 Huntington Area League Monthly Meeting, 7:30p.
- 17-19 Children's Justice Task Force Conference, Charleston, WV. (Alec Ross, Director. WV Prosecuting Attorneys Assoc., Judicial Annex, 3rd Floor. 111 Court Street, Charleston, WV 25301)

### DECEMBER

- 16 Meeting with Legislators.