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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
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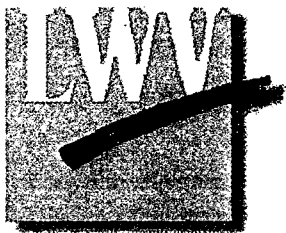
9-2012

LWV Bulletin, September, 2012

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area



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LWVUS website: www.LWV.ORG

September 2012 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, Treasure, 706 Ridgewood Road, Huntington, WV 25701. Check is to be made out to the League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT PROGRAM The Huntington League and the NAACP will cosponsor a meeting on how West Virginians will be impacted by the US Affordable Health Care Act, better known as Obamacare. Renate Poore of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care will be the speaker. *The meeting is scheduled at 7 pm, September 24, at the Weed and Seed office, Barnett Center, 1524 10th Avenue. Attendees may park at the White Way Laundry, across the street, as well as the parking lot at Weed and Seed.*

According to the Herald-Dispatch barely half of West Virginians receive employer provided health care. There are hundreds of questions and myths surrounding the ACA. The program on the 24th is designed to clarify issues associated with the ACA. Be prepared to ask your questions, too.

CANDIDATES MEETINGS In October the League will cosponsor three candidates meetings. Members of the audiences will submit questions to the moderator. The moderator will ask the questions.

- **October 4** Thursday, 7 pm, Junior League Community Center, 617 Ninth Ave. Co-Sponsor Southside Neighborhood Organization. Candidates for Assessor, Cabell County Commission, Huntington City Council At-Large and District 4, WV House of Delegates, Districts 16 and 17.
- **October 15** Monday, 7 pm. Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Pea Ridge Rd. Co-Sponsor, Bates Presbyterian Church. Candidates for Assessor, Cabell County Commission, WV House of Delegates, Districts 17 and 18.
- **October 18** Thursday, 6:30 pm. Woodlands Retirement Center. Candidates for Assessor, Cabell County Commission, Huntington City Council At-Large and District 4, WV House of Delegates, District 17.

INFORMATION ABOUT CANDIDATES The Herald-Dispatch continues to publish the answers to questions both online

and in a tabloid to be published in October. To access the online version go to www.herald-dispatch.com. Thanks to Laura Deveny for sending out the letters to local candidates and to Marion Weiser, state board, for sending the statewide and congressional candidates' letters.

You may find current office holders on the Herald-Dispatch's website, News, Community, "Directory of WV Public Officials and Personnel". This page is a cooperative project with the League of Women Voters. VOTE 411 is a website offered by the LWVUS. It includes countrywide information for voters. The WV League also provides information for voters on its website, www.lwvwwv.org. It will include the answers to statewide and congressional candidates as well as other election information. The LWVUS and the LWVWV both are on Facebook. Presidential Debates - Oct. 3, Oct 16, Oct 22. VP - Oct. 11. Access Politfact.org to check whether politicians are telling the truth.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE New members in the League may pay half price dues this year. The state League received a bequest that finances the other half of the dues. Your dues pay for membership in the national and state levels of the League as well as the local level. Pay your dues to our treasurer, Anne Speer, 706 Ridgewood Rd. 25701. Welcome to new members, Elizabeth May, Brittany McIntyre, and Anne Tao.

LEAGUE SPONSORED MEETINGS

- September 24th @ 7:00 pm. Weed and Seed Building. "Affordable Care Act"
- September 25th @ 11:30 am. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. LWV Board Meeting
- October 4th @ 7:00 pm. Junior League Community Center. Candidates Meeting
- October 15th @ 7:00 pm. Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church. Candidates Meeting
- October 18th @ 6:30 pm. Woodlands Retirement Center. Candidate Meeting

ELECTION CALENDAR

- Voter Registration Deadline – October 16
- Early Voting – October 24- November 3 (Courthouse and Ona satellite)
- Election Day – November 6

ABSENTEE VOTING Voters who are out of town during the early voting season and Election Day may vote absentee by mail. Also voters who are housebound may vote absentee. Contact the Voter Registration office. Cabell County (304) 526-8633.

CONDOLENCES We send our condolences to Betty Barrett on the death of her husband, Eddie Barrett. Eddie was a long time member and supporter of the League.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES We celebrated the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. We watched "Iron Jawed Angels" and ate some of Rose Riter's delicious brownies. We created a Bill of Rights display at the downtown library during July. Thanks to Marcia Daoust, the coordinator, and her helpers Helen and Charlie Brown, Karen Nance, and Helen Gibbins. Also Karen Shook, Crumpets & Tea, and Robert "Jenks" Jenkins, Custom Framing by Jenks helped with the display.

DISCLOSE ACT Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, we have seen a huge increase in election-related advertising through supposedly "independent" expenditures – and most of the money comes from secret sources. Corporations, unions and wealthy individuals can hide the fact that they are funneling tens of millions of dollars into ad campaigns designed to elect or defeat candidates. The DISCLOSE Act would remedy this situation by requiring disclosure. Voters deserve and need to know the sources of funding for election advertising so they can make informed decisions. Secret campaign money has no place in America's democracy simply because it undermines the role of the voter and corrupts the election process. Voters have a right to know – whether it is a corporation, union, trade association, or non-profit advocacy group making unlimited campaign expenditures and influencing elections – so they can judge whether to believe the ads.

On an 8 – 1 vote in the *Citizens United* case, the Supreme Court upheld disclosure requirements. In fact, the Court pointed in the direction of enhanced disclosure when it said that disclosure is important to "providing the electorate with information." It also supported disclaimer requirements "so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjected." We couldn't agree more.

The DISCLOSE Act of 2012 is carefully crafted to require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures – those over \$10,000 – and includes a valuable "stand-by-your ad" provision for ads run by such groups. It requires outside groups to certify that their spending is not coordinated with candidates and, very importantly, covers transfers of money among groups so that the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections will be known.

One of the key elements of the DISCLOSE Act is the definition of "electioneering communications" that triggers the disclosure requirements. If an ad uses the name or likeness of a candidate within the calendar year of a particular House or Senate election, then disclosure is required. Current law only requires disclosure of ads within 90 days of a general election, a period of time that is proving much too short with the huge campaign expenditures we are seeing – and made possible by – *Citizens United*.

The requirement for the main funder(s) of an ad to appear briefly in the ad ensures that the voters will hear directly and immediately who is paying for and is responsible for the ad.

The League of Women Voters believes Americans deserve all the information they can get before they vote. Besides supporting DISCLOSE legislation the League joined an amicus brief on an appeal to the DC Court of Appeals in the case of *Van Hollen vs. FEC*. The friend-of-the-court brief supports a lower court ruling that upheld strict disclosure requirements for the funding for electioneering communications. The Federal Elections Commission had defined disclosure requirements too narrowly.

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