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League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin 1980-1989

League of Women Voters of the Huntington
Area Bulletin

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League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin, October, 1987

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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IMPACT ON ISSUES

Huntington Area League of Women Voters

October 1987

Helen Gibbins, Pres.
6128 Gideon Rd.
Htgn 25705
736-3287

Lila Thompson, Treas.
2738 Washington Blvd.
Htgn 25705
522-3792

Carol Stroud, Ed.
133 Woodland Dr.
Htgn 25705
523-2682



ANNEXATION

There are many who believe that West Virginia's annexation laws impede the ability of cities and towns to grow to sizes that can cope with modern day problems.

League members may attend either the October 19th or 20th meetings on Annexation Laws in WV. We will hear a presentation and then voice our opinions on annexation laws. These meetings are part of our study/action process. When the state board accumulates all the responses from Leagues around the state,

the next step will be to formulate a position for action in the state legislature. A thank you to Esther Cotton, Nancy Taylor and Pete Vaughan for preparing and presenting the materials at the meetings. (See the article on Annexation Laws elsewhere in this Bulletin.)

FINANCE DRIVE

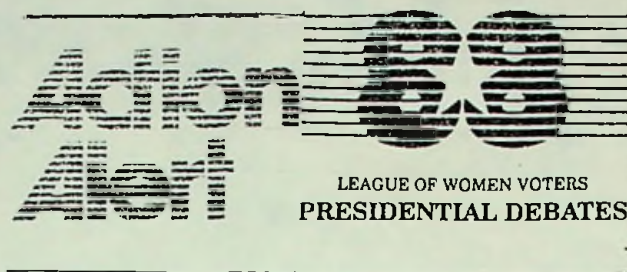
Dues from members do not cover the League's costs of providing studies and extensive services to the community. The League prepares informational pamphlets on voting, public officials, recreational opportunities and guide to the legislature. We develop pro/con materials on governmental issues and act on our positions. Annually we send solicitation letters to people in the community. We also ask, via this Bulletin, that League members who may wish to contribute to the League in addition to their dues send a contribution to our treasurer, Lila Thompson. Thank you, Anne Csernica and Jean George, for preparing and mailing the solicitation letters.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

Welcome new member: Rose Marie Riter
1014 3rd St. W. 25701
522-4459

New mailing address: Bernice Steirn
PO Box 2002 25720

Last spring, the Democratic and Republican national committees announced that they would sponsor the presidential debates in the fall 1988 elections. The League of Women Voters believes that the parties' attempt to sponsor the debates creates problems for American voters. Voters need information. They need to hear and see the candidates express their beliefs, set out their programs, and defend them when their opponents probe and test those beliefs and programs.



What voters don't need is more tightly controlled campaigning, arranged by campaign managers. The League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) is proceeding with its plans to sponsor presidential debates in 1988. The plans call for eight primary debates and four general election debates. Party-controlled debates would be no substitute for fair, open, non-partisan debates run by an independent organization like the League.

YOU HAVE A ROLE IN THE DEBATE PROCESS. If you are a registered Republican, write to the Republican candidates (listed below); registered Democrats, write to candidates in the Democratic party. Here is a sample letter:

I know that the League of Women Voters Education Fund has invited you to participate in its 1988 presidential primary debates. As a registered (Republican, Democrat), I urge you to accept the League's invitation, if you have not yet made this commitment.

Also, the League will sponsor Presidential debates in the fall of 1988. If you receive the Presidential nomination of your party, I urge you to accept the League's invitation to participate in these debates — the only debates put on by an independent, objective sponsor with no stake in the election's outcome.

The public expects debates to be nonpartisan, fair, accurate and balanced. Since the 1920's the League has been the leading sponsor of political debates at all levels of government, and has earned its reputation as a credible, trusted, experienced debates sponsor.

REPUBLICANS

Vice President George Bush
7331 15th St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Senator Robert Dole
1828 L St., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Governor Pete DuPont
PO Box 1988
Rockland, Delaware 19731

Secretary Alexander Haig
1154 15th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005

Congressman Jack Kemp
1815 N. Fort Meyer Dr.
Suite 700
Arlington, VA 22209

Reverend Pat Robertson
PO Box 1988
Chesapeake, VA 23320

DEMOCRATS

Governor Bruce Babbitt
2095 E. Camelback Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Governor Michael Dukakis
105 Chauncey
Boston, MA 02111

Congressman Richard Gephardt
304 Pennsylvania Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20003

Senator Albert Gore
PO Box 15800
Arlington, VA 22215-0800

Reverend Jesse Jackson
733 15 St., NW Suite 327
Washington, DC 20005

Senator Paul Simon
302 5th St., NE
Washington, DC 20002

ANNEXATION LAWS · WV

Annexation, the addition of unincorporated territory to a city, is always a controversial issue. Everyone has an opinion about whether annexation is good or bad, and opinions change depending on the situation. The purpose of the League study is not to judge whether annexation itself is good or bad, but to determine whether the West Virginia Laws regarding annexation are equitable and workable.

The three methods of annexation in West Virginia are summarized below:

| METHOD | INITIATION | APPROVAL |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Annexation With Election | 5% Freeholders inside city (Petition) | Majority of voters inside city AND Majority of voters and Freeholders in area to be annexed (Two elections) |
| Annexation Without Election | 60% of voters in annexed area AND 60% of non-resident freeholders in annexed area (Two petitions) | City Council (Ordinance) |
| Minor Boundary Adjustment | City Council (Resolution) | 100% Freeholders in area to be annexed (Public Hearing) |

In the first two methods, the area to be annexed must be contiguous to the city, be urban in nature, and have at least 100 inhabitants (if less than one square mile in area), or an average of 500 inhabitants per square mile. In the third method, the only requirement is that the area must be contiguous to the city; density and urban characteristics are not specified. Large areas that have only a small segment of land contiguous to the city may be annexed by minor boundary adjustment.

The first method is certainly equitable; there has to be mutual agreement to the annexation by a majority of the voters inside the city, and a majority of voters and freeholders outside the city. The initiation of the election is the major obstacle; 5% of the freeholders in the city must sign a petition calling for the election, and the petitioners must post a bond to pay for the costs of the election if it fails. Very few annexations have taken place by this method.

The second method is initiated from outside the city. City council must receive two petitions from voters and freeholders in the territory desiring annexation. One petition must be signed by 60% of the qualified voters (resident freeholders are eligible to sign this petition). The second petition must be signed by 60% of the non-resident freeholders. It is very difficult to persuade 60% of the non-resident freeholders to sign an annexation petition. Attempts have been made to change "60%" to "a majority", but the legislation has not passed. If there are no non-resident property owners, only one petition is needed, and the petition process may proceed smoothly. The city then MAY pass an ordinance approving the annexation but is under no obligation to annex the territory. Residential areas are often viewed by cities as non-revenue producing, and are not annexed. Very few annexations have taken place by this method.

Most annexations in West Virginia take place by the third method. All the freeholders in the area to be annexed have to be in favor or annexation, and the city council usually does not initiate annexation unless it knows there are no objections. Boundaries of cities tend to be irregular, since the city excludes any bits of territory that belong to dissenting property owners. Residential areas are seldom annexed by this method, but businesses that want to be annexed, schools, or land owned by the city (such as an airport or park) are easily annexed. This law is strict in the sense that 100% of the freeholders in the territory must favor the annexation. The process is simple in that city council does not have to pass an ordinance or hold a public hearing before requesting the boundary change. The county commission holds a public hearing, but court cases have demonstrated that objections from city residents have no weight; only objections from freeholders in the territory can be considered.

Annexation is not a taking of property, or removal of property rights, but it DOES concern property. Taxes and fees increase, and the level of services is improved. How to make annexation fair to those who are annexed, as well as to the annexing city, is a central problem in drawing up annexation laws.

GOINGS ON

October-December

League Finance Drive

Oct. 19, Monday
7 PM

Consensus on Annexation Laws in WV
Enslow Park Presbyterian Church

Oct. 20, Tuesday
9:30 AM

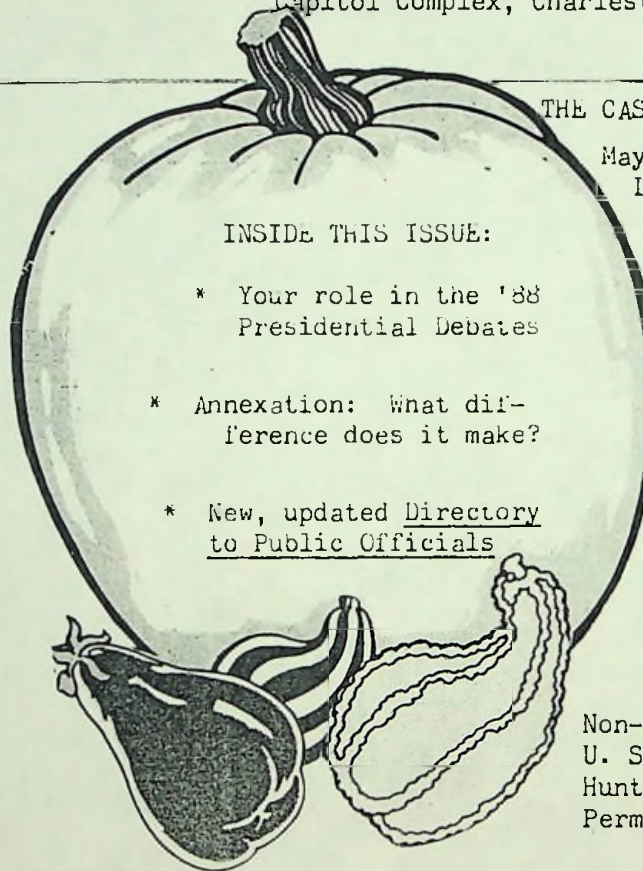
Consensus on Annexation Laws in WV
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church
(Baby-sitting provided)

Oct. 21, Wednesday

George McGovern
"A Strategy for Peace"
Student Center, MU

Nov. 20, Friday
9 AM - 5 PM

Safe Drinking Water Amendments
Seminar, WV Dept. of Health
Capitol Complex, Charleston



THE CASE OF THE MISSING MAYOR

Mayor Nelson called the League president to apologize that he did not attend the September meeting and that no one from his office notified the League. He was in Washington attending a Water-front Development Conference.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- * Your role in the '88 Presidential Debates
- * Annexation: What difference does it make?
- * New, updated Directory to Public Officials

TO JOIN the Huntington Area LWV, send your dues (\$25 individual or \$37.50 for 2 in the same house) to Lila Thompson, Treas.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Huntington, WV
Permit #39

Gibbins Helen
6128 Bideon Road
Huntington, WV 25705

HELP WANTED:

MEMBERS NEEDED for Agriculture Committee, new LWV study. West Virginia's Becky Cain is on the national committee and will be our speaker for next year's Annual Meeting. Consensus will be taken April, 1988. Get involved early.

IT'S NOT TOO SOON to think of "Summer Fun" for 1988. New ideas for the flyer's format, content and distribution welcomed.

HELP US CAMPAIGN for passage of statewide excess levy, election March 5, 1988. Also for constitutional amendment to permit alternative forms of county government -- Counties Can Choose (CCC).

GIVE YOUR IDEAS for questions to ask candidates in the May primary elections, local, state and national levels.

NOW IS THE TIME to propose League studies for 1988-90, national and/or local. Read the November issue of the NATIONAL VOTER, "The Power of Positive Planning."

To respond to any of the above activities, call Helen Gibbins, 736-3287.

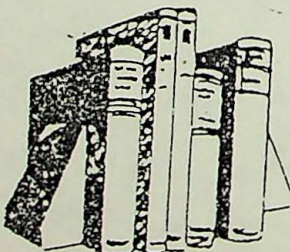
CAN YOU BRING YOUR FAVORITE "finger food" for the Dec. 14 meeting with legislators? If so, please tell Doris Gladney, 525-6620.

THE DRINKING WATER SURVEY committee will be interviewing the local water company. If you would like to attend, call Diane Bady, 886-5796.

AT THE LIBRARY

See the display of new books on national security in the nuclear age, 2nd floor. Near the 1st

floor entrance, free UNICEF catalogs may still be available.



West Virginia Toll-Free Numbers

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Adult Abuse Hotline | 1-800-344-5738 |
| Aging, WV Commission | 1-800-642-3871 |
| Alcohol Beverage Control Commission | 1-800-642-8208 |
| Attorney General - Consumer Protection Division | 1-800-368-8808 |
| Auto Safety Hotline | 1-800-424-9393 |
| Banking, WV Dept. of | 1-800-642-9066 |
| Cancer Information (WVU Medical Center) | 1-800-422-6237 |
| Child Abuse Hotline | 1-800-352-6513 |
| Consumer Product Safety Commission | 1-800-638-2772 |
| Consumer Protection (Attorney General's Office) | 1-800-368-8808 |
| Developmental Disabilities (Case Management) | 1-800-642-1904 |
| Developmentally Disabled (WV Advocates for the) | 1-800-642-8205 |
| Disability Determination (elig., appeals & claims). | 1-800-344-5033 |
| Emergency Services, WV Dept. of | 1-800-642-9700 |
| Exceptional Children (Adv. Council - WV Col. of Grad. St.). | 1-800-642-3642 |
| Fuel and Energy Office (GOECD) | 1-800-642-8012 |
| Golden Mountaineer Program | 1-800-642-3671 |
| Governor's Office | |
| State Capitol. | 1-800-227-4865 |
| Governor's Press Office. | 1-800-642-9003 |
| Handicapped Services (WV Library Commission). | 1-800-642-8674 |
| Health Information (Information & Referral Services) | 1-800-336-4797 |
| Health, WV Dept. of | |
| Family Planning, Maternal & Child Health | 1-800-642-8522 |
| Immunization & Epidemiology | 1-800-642-3634 |
| Venereal Disease Control | 1-800-642-8244 |
| Highways, WV Dept. of | 1-800-642-9292 |
| Human Services, WV Dept. of | |
| Client Services & Information | 1-800-642-8589 |
| Medical Provider Services | 1-800-642-3607 |
| Insurance, WV Dept. of (Consumers Serv. & Agents Lic.) | 1-800-642-9004 |
| Insurance Information | |
| Life and Health | 1-800-423-8000 |
| Property and Casualty | 1-800-221-4954 |
| Internal Revenue Service (Taxpayers Service) | 1-800-424-1040 |
| Legal Advice (WV Bar Association). | 1-800-642-3617 |
| Legal Services Plan | 1-800-642-8279 |
| Legislative Public Information. | 1-800-642-8650 |
| Library Commission, WV | 1-800-642-9021 |
| Medicare Claims. | 1-800-848-0106 |
| Medicare/Medicaid (Fraud) | 1-800-368-5779 |
| Motor Vehicles, WV Dept. of | |
| General Information, Licensing & Titling | 1-800-642-9066 |
| Records Division - Compulsory Insurance | 1-800-642-3067 |
| Natural Resources - Water Resources - pollution and spills. | 1-800-642-3074 |
| Pesticide Information. | 1-800-858-7378 |
| Poison Control Center | 1-800-642-3625 |
| Public Service Commission. | 1-800-344-5113 |
| Public Service Commission - Utilities - Complaints | 1-800-642-8544 |
| Runaway Hotline (Nationwide) | 1-800-231-6946 |
| Runaway Switchboard | 1-800-621-4000 |
| Small Business Administration | 1-800-368-5855 |
| Small Business Assistance | 1-800-225-6982 |
| State Industrial Development | 1-800-225-6982 |
| State Parks (Information, Reservations, etc.) | 1-800-225-6982 |
| Substance Abuse Unit (24 hrs. at Huntington St. Hosp.). | 1-800-642-3434 |
| Tax Dept. WV | |
| Business Taxes. | 1-800-642-8698 |
| Property Reappraisal Tax | 1-800-642-3687 |
| Taxpayers Services (Information) | 1-800-642-9016 |
| Teachers Retirement Board | 1-800-642-8509 |
| Travel Groups & Tourism Information | 1-800-225-6982 |
| Treasurer's Office (TEDDI Loans) | 1-800-345-2274 |
| Veterans Administration | 1-800-642-3520 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation | 1-800-642-8207 |
| West Virginia Literacy Coalition | 1-800-642-2670 |
| Women's Health Center of West Virginia. | 1-800-642-8670 |
| Workers' Compensation | 1-800-642-8091 |

Courtesy League of Women Voters. Source: Jefferson County League.

TELL IT TO WASHINGTON -- FOR LESS

You can voice your opinions to the offices of Byrd, Rockefeller, or Rahall without running up big phone bills. Call after 5 PM -- most offices are open considerably later. Some even have answering machines so you can leave your message from 11PM to 8 AM, when rates are lowest. Here are their numbers:

Senator Robert Byrd.....(202) 224-3954
 Senator Jay Rockefeller.....(202) 224-6472
 Representative Nick Rahall.....(202) 224-3452

Mark Your Calendar

Meeting Basic Human Needs Consensus
Enslow Park Presbyterian Church
Monday, November 16, 7:00 PM

Meeting Basic Human Needs Consensus
Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church
Tuesday, November 17, 9:30 AM

(See Basic Human Needs articles,
starting page 1)

Meeting with state legislators
Betsy Broh's home, 721 13th Ave.
Monday, December 14, 7:00 PM
This is one of our most popular
programs of the year. Invite
someone now -- your mate, your
friend -- for a spirited evening.
More details next Bulletin.

LEAGUE TO CO-SPONSOR NOV. 17. EVENT IN CELEBRATION OF JOHN MARSHALL

The Political Science and Music Departments of Marshall University together with the West Virginia Humanities Foundation have funded and developed a series of programs in tribute to John Marshall. The first of these, on Tues., Nov. 17, at the Public Library, 7:30 PM, will be a preliminary briefing led by speaker Clair Matz. The League is happy to co-sponsor this event. On the 19th, there will be another briefing at the Ebenezer Outreach Community Center. On Sunday, the 22nd, the Music Department will perform "Chief Justice." Symposia at Marshall on Nov. 23rd and 24th will feature eight nationally known constitutional specialists. Watch the newspaper for further information, or call the Political Science Department at MU.



The national League has received commitments from all Democratic party candidates to appear in the first two primary debate series, February and March '88. The League has received commitments from several Republican candidates and is still pursuing commitments from George Bush and Robert Dole (as of mid-October '87).

Profiting from rubbish

There is an alternative.

For those who prefer to sell part of their trash instead of paying someone to haul it to a landfill, listed below are Tri-State Area companies that buy recyclable material:

- Riverside Recycling, 730 31st St., Huntington, buys glass and metals such as copper, brass, aluminum, iron and steel.
- Taylor's Iron and Metal, 20 1st St., Huntington, buys glass and metals.
- Tri-State Salvage, 5171 Altizer Ave., Huntington, buys scrap metal but not glass, beverage cans or car batteries.
- Recycler's Market, formerly known as Waste Paper Packing Co., 1751 7th Ave., Huntington, buys aluminum cans, glass containers and paper.
- Tri-State Recycling, 2225 Greenup Ave., Appland, buys aluminum cans and glass containers.
- Tri-State Industries, 600 Carlton Davidson Lane, Coal Grove, buys aluminum cans and glass containers, but no paper.

Reprinted from the HERALD DISPATCH

Goodwill Industries, 1005 Virginia Ave.,
Huntington, also buys aluminium cans.

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington, WV 25705

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Huntington, WV
Permit 39