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Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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action packed POLITICS

BULLETIN
APRIL
1987

WHO SHOULD SPONSOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES?

“It's a nice, safe little idea. Safe for the official candidates out lousy for the voter.”

That was the LAW national President Nancy Neuman's response to news that the chairmen of the Democrat and Republican National Committees hope to sponsor televised debates between their parties presidential candidates in 1988.

The parties' attempt to raid the debates creates problems for American voters and for the country. Voters need information when they vote, they need to hear and see the candidates expressing their beliefs, setting out their programs, and defending them when their opponents probe and test those beliefs and programs.

What the voters don't need are debate appearances only in tightly controlled situations arranged by the candidates' campaign managers. Can we be sure that if the debates are turned over to the same people who brought us 30-second spots and the disgraceful 1986 poison-pen negative ads the public interest will be served?

Furthermore how can a substantially supported third party candidate such as John Anderson in 1980 be allowed to participate in a Democrat/Republican sponsored debate?

Since its founding in 1920, the League has been the

leading independent provider of accurate, fair and balanced information about politics and government at the local, state and national levels. As the voters' advocate, the League has more experience than any other institution in the difficult business of getting candidates to agree to and participate in debates. The League, unlike the two main political parties, has no stake in the outcome of any election. Its central purpose has been to give voters the information they need to make informed poli-

tical choices.

We ask you to follow the "debate about the debates." Voice your opinion to the parties and candidates. Challenge any candidate who sells out early by agreeing to party-managed "debates."

THE DEBATES HIT HOME

The LAW of course is going ahead with plans for the '88 Debates, and Charleston has applied to be a site. How exciting for all of West Virginia if our Capitol City is one of the chosen! We're pulling for you, Charleston.

ADOLESCENT CENTER
April 20, 1987
9:30 A. M.

A rare invitation to visit the adolescent center for the emotionally disturbed in Barbourville has been given to League.

The program offered by the center is the only one of its kind since the adolescent center at Lakin has been closed.

To take advantage of this unusual opportunity, League members will gather at 9:00 A. M. in the K-Mart parking lot at the eastern section near the Route 60 highway. We will go in as few cars as possible, since parking may be limited. If you miss us, the map may prove helpful. Les Cohen, the director, expects us by 9:30 A. M.



Are there peaceful ways
to solve our
international problems?

DR. CLAIR
MATZ

recently returned from
trips to RUSSIA and to
NICARAGUA and will share
his experiences and out-
look at

NOON
MONDAY
MAY 4

Campus Christian Center
Marshall University

Come from work, home, or
play. Invite a friend,
bring a bag lunch.
We promise you
FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

Arranged by Huntington
League of Women Voters

ARMS CONTROL: YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL

Congressional action to
limit funding for the Star
Wars program and to restore
and maintain US adherence
to the SALT II numerical
sublimits is expected soon.

Please call or write your Senators and Representatives now.
Urge them to --

- 1) Oppose all FY'87 supplemental appropriations for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), reduce FY'88 funding below last year's level of \$3.5 billion, and resist pressures to move toward early deployment of an SDI system.
- 2) Support binding legislation to restore and maintain US adherence to the SALT II numerical sublimits.

Even a Little Bite of the Defense Apple Would Keep Social Service Levels Where Congress Set Them

By the end of 1987, the Department of Defense will have \$50.5 billion in unobligated funds—money which is already appropriated, but which is not needed for present DoD plans. At the same time, the administration is trying to rescind \$4.7 billion in FY87 funds for low income programs. Thus, the Pentagon's leftover money will be more than ten times the amount the White House proposes to remove from Congress' FY87 social services budget.



Proposed rescissions from FY87
low income social services spending

Editorial: A N A B S E N C E O F A R A T H Y

The Annual Meeting of the Huntington League (Radisson Hotel, March 21) demonstrated again, in the Direction session, how intensely members care about issues, international to local.

For some it was education, and the importance of the excess levy in the March '88 election. For others it was how all social services have suffered from national cutbacks as well as West Virginia's poor economic condition.

The topic of waste — be it solid, hazardous, litter or liquid — exploded in indignation and illustrations: the bogged-down Bottle Bill ... a new litter bill in committee ... action on hazardous waste ("Watch Charleston's upcoming project to recycle hazardous waste from the home!") ... concern about styrofoam's adverse effect on the ozone layer.

The information and enthusiasm on these and other topics made for an enlightening and stimulating session. At one point, a thoughtful voice reminded us all that getting out the vote is more basic to the League's purpose than having an election's outcome confirm our position.

CUT OUT AND POST ON A PUBLIC BULLETIN BOARD

League of Women Voters

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

YEAR IN REVIEW 1986-87

ACTION

Support of mandatory garbage pickup in the county (local)
 Support of contract between Cabell County schools and OIC for a tutoring program
 Support of excess levies for Prester Center and the TTA
 Support of property reappraisal implementation, statewide excess levy, and following the school aid formula for teachers salaries' raises (state)
 Support of constitutional amendment for school construction (state)
 Support of county government reorganization amendment (state)
 Letter voicing our views on the Department of Natural Resources reorganization
 Support of the Canaan National Wildlife Refuge
 Support of freezing funding for SDI; support UN funding; opposes aid to the Contras

VOTERS SERVICE

Candidates' answers to the League's questionnaire, published in newspaper both elections
 Election Day Call-In Service, primary and general elections
 VOTE posters (prepared by LWVWV) distributed throughout the county
 VOTE display (including a voting machine) at the downtown library
 Letters to the Editor concerning elections
 Explanation of constitutional amendments, other ballot issues, and elections procedures at meetings and on TV and radio
 Provision of a lesson plan on teaching about elections and pamphlets on judging candidates and watching debates, for public schools and Marshall University
 WPBY-TV candidates meetings for the school board and state Senate, instigated, helped plan for, and provided a questionner
 Helped the Junior League and Community Services Roundtable plan candidates meetings; provided a moderator for the CSR candidates meetings

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Human Services Survey
 Needs Assessment for the Cabell County schools (planning and participation)
 Groundwater publication given to state legislators
 How to Dispose of Hazardous Household Products in the bulletin
 Curriculum on How to Teach about Peace, provided to public schools

MEETINGS

Hazardous Waste Management
 Solid Waste Management
 World Court
 Task Force on the Homeless Report
 Meeting with our state legislators to present the state legislative platform
 Learning Outcomes and other new programs in the Cabell County schools
 Secretary of State Ken Hechler speaking on ethics in government (annual meeting)

PUBLICATIONS (all League produced publications are distributed through libraries and Chamber of Commerce)
 Recreation flyer (distributed to school children)
 A Directory of Public Officials and Personnel (distributed to public officials)
 Guide to the West Virginia Legislature
 Explanation of ballot issues

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Spot announcements on elections and the League's meetings, radio and TV
 Radio and TV interviews pertaining to mandatory garbage pickup and the Bottle Bill
 Speeches on environmental issues and public involvement in decision making
 Jury selection concurrence sent to newspaper; editorial followed

VOTE

Flyers for the Milton and Barboursville municipal elections are being prepared by Frances Huddleston and will be distributed through local businesses, libraries and schools.

HELLO

NEW MEMBERS

Joel Robertson
1053 Jane Drive
Culloden, WV 25510
743-5589
Ray Woodruff
3102 Brereton Court
Huntington 25705
525-0620

GOOD MORNING

LWV commentaries on
Public Radio
7:30 A. M.
April 15 & 30,
May 14 & 22.

GOODBYE

Huntington delegates to
State Convention,
April 10-11, in Wheeling:
Helen Gibbins, Susan Hubbard,
Frances Huddleston, Esther
Leonard, Mary Robson, Carol
Stroud and Nancy Taylor. Also
Beth Bauserman, State Board Member.
Tell us all about it!

Coming Up

** April 20

This regular monthly meeting of the League (open to all interested persons) is an important opportunity: field trip to the new Adolescent Center for the Emotionally Disturbed, near Barboursville. Please note these times:
9:00 A.M. — convene K-Mart Parking Lot
9:30 A.M. -- visit begins at Center
More details on front page.

April 24

"Sharing the Night" event will help participants understand and support homelessness. Watch for details in the news media.

** May 4

Noon: Dr. Clair Matz, distinguished professor, speaker and thinker, has just returned from travels in both Russia and Nicaragua. He will share his observations and findings there, and implications for the future. Scheduled for lunch hour (bring your own), Campus Christian Center, Marshall U.

7:00 P.M. LWV Board Meeting, Open.

**Mark your calendar now, or keep this page to remind you of these special dates.

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