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Area Bulletin

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

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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action packed POLITICS

BULLETIN
MAY 1987

STRAIGHT TALK ON HUMAN NEEDS

If you haven't looked at the big picture of human services lately, you may find that it's quite a different scene -- with things that you assumed, hoped for or took for granted now changed, reduced or disappeared altogether.

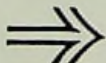
You have a couple of excellent opportunities this month to look closely at human services today in West Virginia.

Sharon Winkler-Serona, Director Region 12, Department of Human Services, will speak at the League's regular monthly meeting on the effects of federal cuts on state and federal programs in West Virginia. The meeting, open to the public, will be at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Monday, May 18, at 7 PM.

Ms. Winkler-Serona will address issues also in the League's current national study of Meeting Basic Human Needs. The study is seeking answers to questions: Who needs help? What should be done at the national level? What functions belong to the state and local governments? What role should the private sector play?

STUDY UPDATE

At the League meeting, Nancy Mullen, who heads our local study of Meeting Basic Human Needs, will give topline findings from the reports of members who worked on this survey.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW:

Monday League Meeting on Human Needs
May 18 Enslow Park Presbyterian
7:00 PM Church

Thursday Community Services Roundtable
May 28 Luncheon, Radisson Hotel
Noon (Reserve by May 22)

Later in May, the Community Services Roundtable Luncheon will feature Commissioner Regina Lipscomb of the West Virginia Department of Human Services, speaking on National Welfare Reform and its impact on West Virginia.

The luncheon will be at noon, Thursday, May 28, at the Radisson Hotel, 2nd floor. Cost: \$7 for soup and salad buffet. Reservations with check are due by Friday, May 22, to:

Sharon Salmons
DHS Area 20
PO Box 100
Wayne, WV 25579

For more details on this event, call Information and Referral at 529-2600.

* * * SOME FACTS ON HUMAN NEEDS TODAY * * *

* Many families with inadequate income have fulltime jobs paying less than \$4 an hour. Some lack education and skills for higher paying jobs. The Job Training Partnership Act program reaches a small percentage of people. Affordable child care, necessary for working parents, is often difficult to find. Aid to Families with Dependent Children is available only to single-parent families.

* Hunger is a growing problem. The federally funded stamp program was cut \$6.8 billion between 1982-85, eliminating several hundred thousand from the program -- 75% of them elderly, disabled, children or single parents with small children.

* Low income households may pay more than half of their income for rent and utilities. Yet federally subsidized low-income housing programs have been drastically cut. The homeless are no longer comprised only of alcoholics, bag ladies and the deinstitutionalized. Many young, unemployed men (See "FACTS" [also ACTION ALERT] page 2)

"FACTS" (continued from front page)

and women and families have no place to live.

* Access to medical care is less likely to be available to the uninsured or underinsured, especially if they are poor. Groups most likely to be uninsured are minorities and persons ages 18-24. A 1985 report from the Academy for State and Local Government estimates 26% of the population is underinsured.

Action Alert

Welfare reform is heating up on Capitol Hill...A number of proposals have been introduced in Congress...Key votes will be taken in the House, possibly as early as mid-May.

Background: In the past few years, the number of poor people in America has increased dramatically. Recessions, unemployment and budget cuts in social programs have all combined to force more and more Americans into the ranks of the impoverished. Nearly one in five children are poor. Households headed by women are about three times as likely as all families to be poor. Thirty-three million Americans still live in poverty.

Increasingly, the debate in Congress is on how to get people off welfare and into the workforce. There is a danger that the welfare-to-work philosophy will totally eclipse the larger issues of poverty and meeting the basic human needs of Americans. This philosophy erroneously assumes that all welfare recipients can be removed from the welfare rolls through training and education, ignores the fact that the unemployment rate in the U.S. has not gone below 6% in the past 6 years, and fails to recognize that many Americans work in jobs that do not pay incomes above the poverty level.

Under the League's current income assistance position:

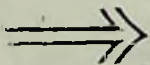
- 1) The League believes that any welfare package must increase benefit levels which have been eroded by budget cuts to assure that welfare recipients receive sufficient benefits to provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter. It must also provide for continued federal standards for these programs.
- 2) The League supports education and training programs that will assist recipients in achieving self-sufficiency. These programs should not be mandatory "workfare", but should be well funded voluntary programs that provide skills training, vocational education and high school equivalency and on-the-job training. In addition, we believe that members of Congress cannot ignore the high unemployment rate which has kept many recipients from finding jobs.
- 3) In order for the current quest for self-sufficiency to succeed, it is critical that adequate support services — particularly child care and health care — be provided while participants are in employment and training programs as well as for a transitional period upon gaining employment.

ARMS CONTROL

After intentionally overstepping the SALT II numerical limits on long-range offensive nuclear weapons, the Reagan administration is poised to nullify the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty's key limits on missile defenses. The White House has "reinterpreted" the ABM treaty in favor of early deployment of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), or "Star Wars."

Congressional efforts to force compliance with existing arms-control agreements will come with consideration of the FY 1988 defense authorization bill in May. The League is strongly backing current legislative initiatives to:

- * reduce FY 1988 funding for Star Wars below last year's level of \$3.5 billion.
- * uphold the ABM treaty and the SALT II limits.
- * extend the moratorium on antisatellite (ASAT) weapons testing for another year.



PLEASE LET YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HEAR FROM YOU NOW ON THE ISSUES OF WELFARE REFORM AND THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL —

SENATORS ROBERT C. BYRD AND JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV; CONGRESSMAN NICK J. RAHALL II

Return to Dianne Bady, RR 2, Box 258 B, Proctorville, OH 45669 by June 1.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATION FUND WATER PERCEPTIONS SURVEY

1. Is your home tap water provided by:

Utility ___ Private Well ___ Other _____ Don't know ___

2. Does this water originate from:

Surface water ___ Ground Water ___ Both ___ Don't know ___

3. What is the average monthly cost of your tap water?

<\$5 ___ \$6-10 ___ \$11-20 ___ \$21-30 ___ \$31-40 ___ Don't know ___

4. Consider this cost together with the quality of your tap water. Do you consider your water a good value? Yes ___ No ___ Don't know ___

5. Currently, water utilities are required to meet a number of federal and state drinking water standards for various substances in finished water. How confident are you that your utility is meeting these standards?

Very confident ___ Confident ___ Somewhat confident ___ Not confident ___ Don't know ___

6. Do you regularly use bottled water or a water purifier (other than a water softener) as an alternative to tap water for drinking?

Bottled water ___ Purifier at Point of use (tap) ___

Purifier at Point of Entry (home) ___ Other: _____

7. If you regularly use bottled water or a water purifier, why do you do so? If you have more than one reason, please rank your response, 1-most important, 5-least.

It is safer, better for my health ___ It tastes better ___ It is odor free ___
It is free of chemicals/contaminants ___ It is clearer ___ Don't know ___ Other: ___

8. What do you consider the most serious health parameter in drinking water?

Flouride ___ Bacteria/Viruses ___ Lead ___ Radionuclides ___ Trihalomethanes ___
Don't know ___

9. If a substance suspected of causing cancer over a lifetime but not yet proven of it were detected in your water, how much per month would you be willing to pay to remove it?

\$0 ___ \$1-5 ___ \$11-15 ___ \$16-20 ___ >\$20 ___

10. The EPA must prioritize its work in environmental health. Please rank these issues in order of their national and local importance to you (1-most important, 6-least).

	<u>Nationally</u>	<u>Locally</u>
a. Cleaning up hazardous waste sites	___	___
b. Cleaning up waterways; reducing water pollution	___	___
c. Ensuring the safety of community drinking water supplies	___	___
d. Reducing groundwater contamination from agricultural chemicals	___	___
e. Reducing acid rain	___	___
f. Disposing of solid wastes	___	___
Other: _____		

THANK YOU'S

Tod Faller, for an open and enlightening discussion and tour of the Adolescent Center for the Emotionally Disturbed, on the League's visit, April 20.

Clair Matz, for his May 4 update on Nicaragua after his recent visit, detailing the problems -- with a "note of hope."

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Dr. Robert Hayes
180 S. Edgemont Rd.
Huntington 25701
523-3840

RADIO DAYS

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

BY REQUEST

The Huntington League has bought 100 copies of the publication, "Household Hazardous Waste Chart" (prepared by the Water Pollution Central Federation) for distribution to interested persons. Call 736-3287 to request a copy by mail, or pick one up at the next League meeting.

EDITORIAL: SPECIAL PEOPLE IN A SPECIAL PLACE

In her closing remarks as LWV state President at convention (Wheeling, April 11), Becky Cain said that when she attended her first convention, she realized that these were the people she wanted to be like, people she wanted to be part of. Well, not only "You've come a long way, Becky" -- she being the quintessential Leaguer -- but I, as a first time attendee, could see what she meant.

Here were alert, caring and concerned people, informed and inquiring, in agreement on many issues, yet able to disagree with such courtesy and honesty ("I have the most profound respect for Helen Gibbins, but ...") that you could see both sides of an issue. These delegates were neither chauvinistic nor dazzled by authority, and seemed "above all, to thine own self be true."

Oglebay Park provided a serene setting for this lively assemblage, and if some year you can go to State Convention, I'd recommend it.

Turn this page over and fill out

YOUR DRINKING WATER SURVEY

This survey is a part of the League of Women Voter's Education Fund Safe Drinking Water Project. The goal of the survey is to ascertain League member concerns and perceptions on a few selected drinking water issues before undertaking a more comprehensive survey of individual community water systems and local drinking water quality and management this fall.

Your response is important, so please mail your completed survey to the Huntington League's project coordinator:

Diane Bady, RR 2, Box 258B, Proctorville OHIO 45669

Thank you!

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

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