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Area Bulletin 1980-1989

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Area Bulletin

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

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IMPACT ON ISSUES

November 1987

Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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For a year we've studied current social policy, at the federal, state and local levels. At this month's meetings, we'll take consensus of members' opinions. It's time to express your views, and also a time to learn, as in last month's annexation consensus meetings. Speaking out, sharing ideas, making decisions, voting — these are the essence of our political process. Here are some articles to stimulate your thinking.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

HOW IS YOUR BASIC NEEDS I. Q. ?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS FALSE OR TRUE ?

AND DID YOU KNOW . . .

1 75% of American workers and their families have no health insurance coverage.
TRUE.

2 The "homeless" consists of winos and mentally-ill derelicts.
FALSE. Homeless also includes unemployed families, unemployed single men and women, elderly with little or no income, and the runaway adolescent. The homeless reflects a cross-section of the national population.

3 During the past ten years the percentage of the population that is poor (as defined by the Census Bureau) has grown from 12% to nearly 15% of all Americans. During the same time period, over one million units have been lost from the low-rent housing supply — a cut of 64%.
TRUE.

4 In West Virginia, two-parent families, single men and single women may qualify for welfare income benefits.
FALSE. With one exception: A limited few two-parent families have some coverage under the program of Assistance to Families with Dependent Children — Unemployed.

5 90% of AFDC (Assistance to Families with Dependent Children) recipients are women who maintain families.
TRUE.

6 The number of those working full time who are poor increased by 66% over the period between 1978-1984.
TRUE.

7 Once one is on welfare, one is always on welfare.
FALSE. The majority of AFDC cases are open for less than two years and most of these are closed within a year.

8 AFDC benefits are too high.
FALSE. The combined benefit from food stamps and AFDC is below the poverty level in every state and below 75% of the poverty level in almost four-fifths of the states.

9 AFDC families receive benefits under a multitude of programs which fill any gaps left by any inadequate AFDC benefits.
FALSE. Not all AFDC families receive benefits under other programs. For those families who do receive them, benefits vary and do not significantly increase income.

— In 1980, the US ranked 10th in the world in preventing infant deaths. In 1986, the figure dropped to 18th. Poor nutritional intake for mothers prior to birth and for newborn infants are considered a leading reason for this trend.

— There were 25 million fewer students receiving a subsidized school lunch in 1986 than in 1980 because of Administration budget cuts.

— Although public assistance programs have represented less than 10% of the federal budget from the years 1980-85, they have been subjected to 32% of all federal spending cuts.

— The low minimum wage of \$3.35 is considered one of the causes of the working poor. At \$3.35 per hour, 52 weeks at 40 hours a week would be \$6,968 for the year. In 1986, the poverty threshold for 2 persons was \$7,138; for 3 persons, \$8,744; for 4 persons, \$11,209.

— West Virginia is losing millions of dollars for human and health services because the state is hard-pressed to raise matching money, even though WV has to raise a lower percentage (2%) than richer states.

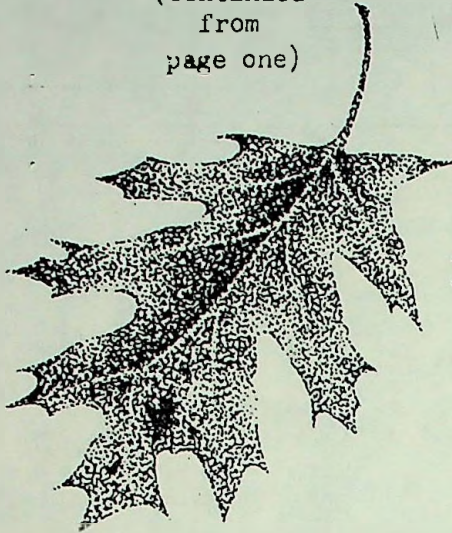
— People do not apply for assistance in West Virginia because they believe they cannot own anything of value to receive benefits, or they may be too embarrassed. Stigma and lack of transportation are also reasons.

— In West Virginia, Medicaid and other medically indigent patients cannot receive the full range of services available to patients who are able to pay. They also have to wait longer for appointments with specialists and are less likely to receive prenatal care than patients who are able to pay.

Continued on page 2, see TRUE?

TRUE ?

(Continued from page one)



- 10** Most AFDC recipients try to cheat the system. FALSE. Recipient fraud occurs in less than 3% of the cases. The effect on expenditures is miniscule when compared with dollars lost due to fraud among medicaid providers and taxpayer error in the income tax system.
- 11** Most poor people are able to work out do not. FALSE. Most poor people who can work do work, but nearly four out of ten poor people are children, more than one in ten are elderly, and about 5% are too ill or disabled to work.
- 12** The typical poor person lives in an inner city ghetto. FALSE. About 30% of the poor live in rural areas. Only 6.7% live in true ghettos.

IN OUR OWN BACKYARD OF CABELL COUNTY --

- The highest possible assistance payment is \$477 and starts with a family of 10.
- During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1986, a monthly average of

<u>CHILDREN</u>	and/or	<u>ADULTS</u>	<u>WERE SERVED UNDER THE PROGRAMS:</u>
2599		1356	Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC)
497		469	AFDC -- Unemployed
		148	Emergency Assistance to Needy Families with Children
		4402	Food Stamps
		523	Transportation Remuneration Incentive Program (TRIP)
		053	Work and Training Program
		2445	Child Support Enforcement Program
		632	Social Services Provided to Children
		1382	Social Services Provided to Adults
		343	Day Care Services
		107	Foster Care Services
		455	Services to Adults
		700	Child Protective Services

READING LIST FOR BASIC NEEDS STUDY

Meeting Basic Human Needs: A Crisis of Responsibility, League of Women Voters of the US. 75¢ to members.

National Voter, 1986: September/October, November/December; 1987: April/May, October/November.

West Virginia Voter, January, July & October, 1987.

Report from the Hill, League of Women Voters of the US, April 1987.

Cabell County, LWV of the Huntington Area.

PREVIEW OF A FEW CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Francie Roberts-Buchanan, newly elected president of the WV Human Resources Association.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Marilyn Caldwell
1220 6th Street 25701
522-1937

1. Should LWV support the right of all persons in the United States who are unable to work, whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available to have an income and/or services adequate to meet their basic needs for food and shelter?
2. Should the above statement on basic human needs be expanded to include access to health care?
3. Which of the following health services, if any, should be excluded from "access to health care"? Examples: preventive care, primary care, maternal and child health care, emergency care, catastrophic care, etc.
4. How would you apportion financial responsibility of the federal, state, and local governments and the private sector concerning food/nutrition, health care, housing, and income assistance programs?
5. Do you agree that it is the responsibility of the federal government to set minimum standards and/or guidelines for assistance programs?
6. What methods should be used to prevent or reduce poverty? Examples: increase job opportunities, increase minimum wage, provide access to health insurance, provide support services (child care, transportation, etc.), etc.

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.

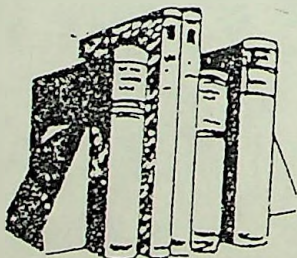
CAN YOU BRING YOUR FAVORITE "finger food" for the Dec. 14 meeting with legislators? If so, please tell Doris Gladney, 525-6620.

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	1-800-642-3671
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	1-800-642-9056
Cancer Information (WVU Medical Center)	1-800-422-8237
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)	1-800-642-8206
Disability Determination (elig., appeals & claims)	1-800-344-5033
Emergency Services, WV Dept. of	1-800-642-8700
Exceptional Children (Adv. Council - WV Col. of Grad. St.)	1-800-642-3642
Fuel and Energy Office (GOECD)	1-800-642-9012
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	1-800-225-5982
State Industrial Development	1-800-225-5982
State Parks (Information, Reservations, etc.)	1-800-225-5982
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	1-800-225-5982
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.

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., Ashland, 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.

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." Symposiums 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).

HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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Huntington, WV 25705

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