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Area Bulletin

11-1979

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin, November, 1979

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HUNTINGTON AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

November, 1979

C A L E N D A R

- November 17 Saturday, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. (NOTE NEW DATE)
NATURAL RESOURCES WORKSHOP, Parkersburg Community College
- " 20 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Voter Service Unit -- CABELL COUNTY CLOSE-UP
at the home of Diane Mufson, 418 12th Avenue (3 cars
can pull up on the driveway)
- " 27 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
BOARD MEETING, Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church
- December 11 Tuesday
SPECIAL LEVY
- " 12 7:30 p.m.
EVENING with the LEGISLATORS,
home of Betty Barrett, 408 11th Avenue

PRESIDENT'S CORNER . . .

At our October Board meeting, the Board agreed to support the upcoming School Levy and Bond Issue.

We are happy to announce the appointment of Natalie Schneiderman to PR.

. . . Linda Lewis-Watkins

President:

Linda Lewis-Watkins
216 Iroquois Trail
Ona 25545
***736-6691

Treasurer:

Lila Thompson
2738 Washington Blvd.
Huntington 25705
***522-3792

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Margaret Gerke
1805 Wiltshire
Huntington 25701
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E D U C A T I O NSPECIAL LEVY and PROPOSED BOND ISSUESpecial Levy

On December 11, the voters of Cabell County will decide whether or not to continue the existing SPECIAL (excess) LEVY. This levy authorizes a rate above the regular levy rate in order to raise more money.

This purpose of this special levy is to maintain school salaries and services at their present levels of operation. The money is used for free textbooks for the elementary schools, \$200,000.00 for Cabell County Public Library, school libraries, adequate repair and maintenance, and sufficient curriculum and educational materials.

This special levy has been passed since 1948. If passed on December 11, the levy will NOT raise property taxes. We will vote merely to continue or discontinue it. If passed, the levy will be in effect for 5 more years, beginning July 1, 1980.

Proposed Bond Issue

The proposed \$30,000,000.00 bond issue is still being discussed among school officials and the public. A date has not been set for voting at this time.

Because of the student population shift and the condition of several of the older buildings, the school board feels we need new buildings, some construction additions, and remodeling of some existing buildings. In order to accomplish this, the school board believes we must have a bond election. The board stated:

Our problem is inflation. A new junior high school could be constructed today for \$3,500,000.00. If we save \$700,000.00 per year of our special levy money, we could award a contract 5 years in the future. But inflation for building construction has been at a 12% to 19% annual rate for the past few years. Thus, by the time we get enough special levy money saved to take bids, the cost has risen beyond the funds available. We see no hope of ever catching up under our present method of financing.

It will be up to the voters to decide whether or not our schools need these new facilities. League is continuing to work with the Board of Education to gather all the facts and to decide if the proposals reflect our concerns. A bond issue would raise taxes. However, it has been estimated that taxes will be raised only about 13.1%, or \$13.10 more if property taxes are presently \$100.00..

. . . (continued p. 3)

Proposed Bond issue (cont'd.)

A bond issue is different from a special levy in that:

1. All of the bonds can be sold at one time, thus making the total amount of the issue available immediately rather than waiting for some money each year or a 5 year period;
2. The tax rate is in addition to the rate for the regular and special levies;
3. The tax rate changes each year as the total assessed value of property in the county increases (or decreases); and
4. The sole purpose of a bond issue is for new building construction.

Mr. Thomas McCray, treasurer for the Cabell County schools, compares the bond issue with a home mortgage and the special levy with a young person taking a second job to help meet expenses.

We will continue to keep you informed on these subjects and hope this article helps distinguish between the upcoming special levy and the proposed bond issue.

If you have any questions, please call me.

. . . Susan Adams, 736-2001

E D U C A T I O N

Our October 10 meeting at Janice McNearney's was an extraordinary success. Mr. Ed McNeel, director of planning and research for the Cabell County School System, joined our swollen ranks for the evening to discuss the County School Physical Facility Plan.

We gleaned a great deal of information from our lively discussion. Mr. McNeel explained the background of the plan, the pitfalls it has evaded and must still evade. We each received a copy of the plan and of the School Board's resolution implementing the plan. We also discussed the difference between a bond and special levy.

Many thanks to our hostess and the thoughtful members who provided the refreshments!

. . . Diane Coe, 736-2695

V O T E R S E R V I C E

Cabell County Close-Up
VS Unit Meeting

Tuesday, November 20

Program will be presented by Mrs. Jane Notter, social studies supervisor for Cabell County Schools, and Bruce Neale, social studies teacher at West Junior High. The League has been working with Mrs. Notter and Mr. Neale on their project to develop a local and county government unit for the 8th grade West Virginia studies.

This unit, CABELL COUNTY CLOSE-UP, will be presented for discussion and suggestions. If the tape is completed on time, we will see a TV program tour of the Courthouse that is part of the unit.

Cabell County Close-Up is affiliated with the Close-Up Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan group which organizes trips to Washington for highschool students. The week-long program, paid for by students, local sponsors, and a small congressional appropriation, provides a full schedule of tours, seminars, talks with congressional representatives and the like. (Ask Ned Barrett and Lynn Phares about last year's). Mrs. Notter is working to allow interested junior highschool students to follow this format on a local level.

Please come to hear about these interesting plans and offer your suggestions.

. . . Betty Barrett, 525-5908
Marguerite Kaplan, 522-4434

V O L U N T E E R S N E E D E D

help needed for:

ELECTION LAWS: The Special Levy Election for the public schools is just around the corner. How about joining me in watchdogging this election . . . and perhaps the ones following in '80?

Contact: Diane Coe, 736-2695

ELECTION DAY: Call-In Service, December 11, School Levy. School officials have asked League's cooperation to conduct training sessions for poll workers for the Special School Levy Election, December 11th. Anyone interested in participating in these sessions,

Contact: Betty Barrett or Marguerite Kaplan
(phone numbers, above).

M E M B E R S H I P

We extend a warm welcome to the following new League members!

Kathleen S. Gross
1109 10th Avenue
Huntington
523-1715

Nancy Mullen
1006 13th Avenue
Huntington
522-9045

Fran Schmitt
201 10th Avenue
Huntington
522-9680

. . . V.M. Galgano, 522-9403

A C T I O N A L E R T (taken from October 19, 1979 issue)

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION:

A set of proposed amendments contained in S.1403 which would cripple and immobilise implementation of the 1977 Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act has passed the Senate by a vote of 68-26 and is pending in the House Interior Committee. Under the leadership of the Committee's Chairman, Representative Morris Udall (D AZ), efforts are being made to prevent or at least stall consideration of the Senate bill. Because of Udall's strong opposition, supporters of the crippling amendments are expected to try an end run around Udall's Committee. They would do this by reintroducing the amendments in the Senate and attaching them to an already House-passed bill. If retained in a House/Senate conference, the amendments would be brought straight to the House floor for an up or down vote on the bill as reported by the conference committee.

It is vitally important that all Senators and Representatives receive calls, letters, and mailgrams as soon as possible, certainly by the middle of November, indicating our support for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and our opposition to the amendments The President has already threatened to veto the legislation, but it would be useful to send letters of support for such an action to President Carter and Interior Secretary Andrus.

E N E R G Y

Unhappy with our current energy situation? Ready to blame the oil companies for the mess? Confused about the outlook for coal and its impact on WV? Optimistic/pessimistic about the chances for solar, nuclear, gasohol? Unsure just what the national League energy position says? Then you need to attend the natural resources workshop on NOVEMBER 17 in Parkersburg.

.....This workshop will attempt to get our act together....we will examine our national position and relevant state positions that indirectly apply to energy. We will discuss our current energy mix and how we use it. We will examine national proposals for an energy program, including the political realities.

E N E R G Y

A quick pro and con run-down of all energy sources will be presented, with special attention given to coal. The conflict between national needs and regional and local needs will be aired, special problems coal poses for West Virginia (as well as special benefits and opportunities) will be presented. We will then turn to some possible solutions, emphasizing the trade-offs people must be willing to make.

.....This workshop IS NOT JUST FOR ENERGY CHAIRPEOPLE OR PRESIDENTS OR EVEN FOR LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS! This workshop is for all LEAGUE MEMBERS.

(taken from State Board Report, September, 1979,
Charlotte Costello)

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