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

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Area Bulletin

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1-1988

### League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area Bulletin, January, 1988

League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area

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# IMPACT ON ISSUES

JANUARY 1988

## Huntington Area League of Women Voters

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

### FULL HOUSE

Although the bankers were also hosting the legislators on December 14th --

they kept turning up at our meeting, so by 9 o'clock the room was spilling over with members, guests and lawmakers. Needless to say, we didn't all agree, but lots of ideas, advice, alternatives, concerns, and hopes were voiced. Top topics were Education, Solid Waste, Annexation Laws, Jury Service, County Government Reorganization, and Ground Water Protection. Thanks to Betsy and Henry Bron for hosting this lively event.

### MEMBERSHIP INFO

Change of address:

Margot Morris  
1019 2nd St. W.  
25701

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN, send your dues (\$25 individual or \$37.50 for two in a household) to Lila Thompson, Treasurer, address above.



# The MOST IMPORTANT EDUCATION ISSUE

"The Amendment campaign is the most important issue on the League's education agenda," says Karen Lukens in the current WV VOTER, reprinted in part below. And she should know: Karen is the chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Finance Reform. She'll also be the speaker at our January 18 meeting at 7 PM, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church.

Karen lives in Charleston and is the state chairperson for the League of Women Voters of WV. Besides discussing the constitutional amendment she will talk about other school finance issues as well as answer your questions about school standards, testing, legislative issues, etc.



Invite friends to this meeting. It will be well worth their time to hear these topics on education.

## CAMPAIGN

The campaign for Uniform School Funding Amendment is going to be a difficult one. Opponents of the Amendment have already begun their negative campaign aimed at capitalizing on the fear of tax increases and distrust of education in general. Predictions of tax increases ranging anywhere from 90% to 40% for all property owners in the state and accusations of misuse of school funds are being made to cloud the issue.

As if countering attacks by our opponents were not challenging enough, we are also faced with the problem of solidifying support among traditional advocates of improvements in educational opportunity. The twenty-eight counties which currently have 100% excess levies will actually suffer a loss of revenue as a result of a 90% statewide levy. In most cases, the increased revenues from the property reappraisal would nearly offset these losses however, the uncertain future of the reappraisal has understandably caused concern among education officials in 100% excess levy counties. The potential loss of funds coupled with the loss of local control could make these officials reluctant to exert a great effort for passage of the Amendment.

Despite the problems, we must hold firm in our support of the Uniform School Funding Amendment. The inequities created

by local excess levies must be corrected. Even though the 100% excess levy counties may experience a small revenue loss with the Amendment, they will doubtless suffer significantly greater losses without it. Judge Jerry Cook, who has been given the authority to oversee the orders of the Pauley v. Bailey decision, has stated that if the Amendment is not passed, as adjusted distribution of state aid will take place, resulting in a decrease in state funds to counties which now have excess levies in operation. This new system would decrease state funds available to counties with excess levies and increase state funds to those without. Those counties with excess levies will continue to pay higher taxes than other counties, but they will not receive the benefits.

Some state educators believe that Judge Cook's decision violates Pauley v. Bailey's provision that no county should lose money as a result of the state's progress toward equity. Nevertheless, we can be sure that if the statewide excess levy fails for the second time (a 100% statewide levy was proposed in 1984), either the Legislature or the courts will decide how to deal with the local excess levy problem.

We can only speculate about what kind of system will be developed, but if equity is to be achieved, it is clear that every county will have an excess levy or no county will have one. While the 90% statewide levy may not be a perfect solution, it is much more attractive than any available alternative.

# WOMEN'S DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE



The tenth year anniversary of Women's Day at the Legislature is scheduled for February 16 and 17, 1988 at the Capitol Complex. The two-day event offers a valuable opportunity for West Virginia women to participate in the legislative process and to discuss important women's issues. Public hearings and workshops are scheduled during the two days and "Celebrate Women," a special awards program to honor outstanding West Virginia women, will also be featured. Former Commissioners will be honored for their involvement during the ten years of the West Virginia Women's Commission. Tours, legislative hearings, time to attend sessions of the legislature and a reception at the Governor's Mansion are also scheduled.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The number of participants for Women's Day will be limited to 480 each day for this two-day event. Participants may choose one workshop each day on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration fee for Women's Day is \$10.00 per day or \$15.00 for two days. A map and a listing of area restaurants will be included in registration packets.

## WORKSHOPS

Workshop topics for both days are listed on the Registration Form below. Each subject is related to legislation under consideration or recently enacted, and the latest developments and projected impact will be detailed.

## HUNTINGTON AREA

A group will attend from the Huntington Area League. Each person sends in his/her Registration (below). Note January 29 deadline. Nancy Taylor is coordinating rides. To go with us, call 522-3361.

## GUIDE TO THE LEGISLATURE

Our Guide is being updated and reprinted. Your copy will be included with this BULLETIN if possible. The new Guides will be available at our January 18 Meeting.



9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	DAY 1	OPENING CEREMONIES	DAY 2
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	HONORING OF COMMISSIONERS		"CELEBRATE WOMEN" AWARDS
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN AND FREE TIME TO ATTEND LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS.		
1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	WORKSHOPS		
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.	PUBLIC HEARING: Health and Human Resources	RECEPTION AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION	
5:30 p.m.	RECEPTION FOR LEGISLATORS		
7:00 p.m.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER/EVENING ACTIVITY		

Common Cause/West Virginia is holding its Public Service Awards Banquet with Speaker Archibald Cox in Charleston (Christ Church United Methodist) on January 20, 6:30 P.M. Reservations \$12.50 per person to PO Box 3263, Charleston, WV 25332

CONTRA CONTRAS: A video of the CHRISTIAN Institute lawsuit vs. CONTRA leaders was shown recently at the Public Library. If you'd like to borrow it for your VCR (VHS only) call Nancy Taylor, 522-3361.

## REGISTRATION FORM — WOMEN'S DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE FEBRUARY 16 & 17, 1988

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop Sign-up: Please indicate first, second and third preference for workshops for each day. Since space is limited, you will be assigned to workshops in order of preference, on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants will attend one workshop each day.

### FEBRUARY 16

- Water Resources \_\_\_\_\_
- Pensions \_\_\_\_\_
- Surrogate Motherhood \_\_\_\_\_
- Financial Resources for Women \_\_\_\_\_
- Capitol and Committee Tours \_\_\_\_\_
- Lobbying Workshop \_\_\_\_\_

### FEBRUARY 17

- Teenage Parenting \_\_\_\_\_
- Sexual Harassment \_\_\_\_\_
- Funding Education \_\_\_\_\_
- Elderly Health Care \_\_\_\_\_
- Capitol and Committee Tours \_\_\_\_\_
- Lobbying Workshop \_\_\_\_\_
- County Government Options \_\_\_\_\_

I will attend: February 16 \_\_\_\_\_ February 17 \_\_\_\_\_

Reception for Legislators: I do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_ wish to attend the reception for Legislators on February 16 at 5:30 PM.

\*Please indicate need for special services such as wheelchair, signing, child care, etc.

RETURN THIS FORM with \$10.00 registration fee for one day, \$15.00 for two days (check or money order payable to WV WOMEN'S FOUNDATION) by January 29, 1988 to: Women's Day at the Legislature, WB-9, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305.

# NEWS EVENTS

## Amendment Explained

The Huntington Area League of Women Voters will sponsor a public meeting to explain the Uniform School Funding Amendment Monday, Jan. 18, 7 p.m., at the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church.

The speaker will be Karen Lukens, chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Finance Reform.

Voters will decide on the state constitutional amendment during a special election set March 5.

Reprinted from Tri-State Shoppers Guide 1/2/88

Clip out to post on public bulletin board, or give to a friend.

### REACHING FOR PEACE: THE U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT December 1987

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty signed in December by General-Secretary Gorbachev and President Reagan is the first arms control agreement that actually eliminates an entire class of weapons rather than placing limits on future deployment. It demonstrates the feasibility of arms reductions, which eases the way for future reductions in long range strategic weapons. The INF Treaty also establishes a precedent for "on-site verifications."

Before the Treaty takes effect, it must be ratified by the U.S. Senate. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has scheduled hearings to begin Jan. 19, 1988. The Treaty should reach the Senate floor for a vote by April. Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) are now in progress in Geneva. An agreement has previously been hindered by the Soviets' insistence on linking strategic weapons reductions to U.S. restrictions on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Many observers believe that the Soviets are willing to go ahead with START discussions without a commitment on the traditional interpretation of the ABM Treaty only because the U.S. Congress has already prohibited SDI testing that violates the ABM Treaty through the remainder of President Reagan's term of office.

The enthusiasm generated by the signing of the INF Treaty nonetheless left some disappointed that no major breakthroughs occurred during the remainder of the summit. But the purpose of a summit meeting is to lay the foundation for the intensive, technical work of treaty negotiators and to build momentum toward a common goal.

#### JANUARY '88

Jan. 18, Monday  
LWV Meeting, 7 PM  
Enslow Pk Presbyterian  
Info, page 1

Jan. 20, Wednesday  
Common Cause Meeting  
Charleston, WV  
Info, page 2

#### FEBRUARY '88

Feb. 11; Thursday  
LWV Board Meeting  
Visitors welcome

Feb. 13, 14 Saturday, Sunday  
Presidential Debates, LWV sponsored  
CNN-TV & Public Radio

Feb. 16 & 17, Tuesday, Wednesday  
Women's Day at the Legislature  
Info, page 2

Mark Your  
Calendars:

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

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

## WOMEN'S DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

February 16 & 17, 1988

See inside  
for information and  
registration form

Helen Gibbins  
6128 Gideon Rd.  
Huntington, WV 25705