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Area Bulletin 1980-1989

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Area Bulletin

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SEPTEMBER 1988

GREENBOTTOM FUTURE AT STAKE



SWAMP ROSE. Greenbottom is sometimes called Glenwood Bend or Swamp.

The Huntington Area League is working with the Tri-State Audubon Society to protect Greenbottom Swamp from flooding by the Department of Natural Resources. Rather than schedule a separate meeting on this issue, we encourage League members to attend the Audubon Meeting (Sept 22) and Field Trip (Sept 24), details page 2. These are occasions to learn more about the unique area and the various positions on the subject.

The Herald-Dispatch — Huntington, WV, Tuesday, August 23, 1988

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

League is in favor of saving swamp

To the editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Huntington Area agrees with local efforts to save the Greenbottom Swamp from flooding by the state Department of Natural Resources. The League believes that fragile or historic lands and significant wildlife habitats should be saved, where development could result in irreversible damage. The swamp is a unique area both from its wetlands characteristics and the history associated with the old Jenkins property. We believe such assets should be preserved.

If the swamp is flooded, many species of both botanical and animal life will be destroyed in order to attract a few species of birds in quantities. Many more kinds of birds, both permanent and transient, will no longer be attracted to the area. The swamp's diversity will be devastated.

The non-game program in West Virginia is a fairly recent program. By allowing the Greenbottom Swamp to retain its special characteristics, the DNR will show its commitment to the non-game program and to those in West Virginia that enjoy wildlife for its own sake.

In addition, the swamp could provide educational opportunities for school children. A comprehensive science education includes the understanding of animals and plants and their dependence on specific habitats. The Greenbottom Swamp is the only wetlands of its kind in our area.

Marshall University students and professors already use the swamp for educational and research purposes. It will be unfortunate if the opportunities the swamp now provides come to an end. Rather than spending funds to destroy the swamp, how much better would the money be spent to enhance what we now have for the public and educators and their students.

Nancy Taylor
President

League of Women Voters
of the Huntington Area

A FOND FAREWELL

to Susan Ray, our newly elected President, whose husband's new position in Alliance, Ohio, has occasioned the family's move. In the two months of her presidency, Susan proceeded with calm competency, following through on present projects and focusing us on the year ahead. The sample of her leadership makes our loss even more difficult. We will miss Susan as friend and leader, and wish the Rays much happiness in their new home . . .



& A HEARTY HAIL to Nancy Taylor, former First

Vice President, who has graciously consented to be President. She has quickly taken hold, with her sunny personality and radiant good will, and we all look forward to working with Nancy, as she spreads her expertise from international affairs to the whole gamut of League activities.



Birdwatchers, naturalists, archeologists, professors, historic home buffs and tourism boosters are questioning DNR Game Division plans. See the area as it now is: Field Trip, Sat., Sept. 24, 7 AM. ("Up-and-Coming" has details.)

Up-and-Coming

Sept. 8
Thursday LWV Presidential Debate, Birmingham, ALA
Check local listings for time & station

Sept. 9
Friday National Voters Registration Day, booth
at Huntington Mall, noon to 7 PM

Sept. 10
Saturday WV Gubernatorial Debate, Nitro studios,
WPBY-TV, Channel 33, 10 PM

Sept. 22
Thursday For our September meeting, League members
are urged to attend the update on the
future of Greenbottom Swamp, sponsored
by the Tri-State Audubon Society at the
Huntington Museum of Art (studios in
the rear) at 7:30 PM

Sept. 24
Saturday Audubon Society Field Trip to Green-
bottom. Meet to leave at 7 AM at
1) MU parking lot, 6th Ave. & 18th St.,
or 2) K-Mart parking lot, US 60. Wear
sturdy, water-resistant shoes.

Activities in Brief

In June, Virginia Hensley represented the League at
the Open House for WV Public Television, WPBY.

As directed by the membership at our Annual Meeting,
Helen Gibbins spoke to the Board of Education on the
following goals at their first meeting of the year
in July:

- a bond issue tied to educational goals
- evaluation of school personnel
- testing for diagnostic and remedial
purposes

Over half our membership was involved in "Debates-
on-the-Line", a phoning project in August to the
offices of Vice President Bush and Governor Dukakis,
urging them to participate in the League-sponsored
Presidential Debates. The first debate is set for
September 8 in Birmingham.

One of the national League's priorities
for the next two years. The focus of
the campaign will be on a viable econo-
my, arms control agreements that reduce
the risk of war, and an understanding that
meeting domestic needs can be as critical to U.S. security as
military programs.



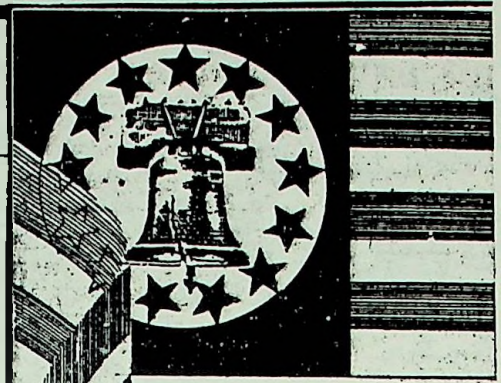
UNCLE SAM WANTS YOU -- and we do, too. In a busy and exciting
year like this, we need all the members we can get. To join,
mail your name, address, phone and dues check (\$25 individual
or \$37.50 for 2 in a household) to:

HUNTINGTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
2738 WASHINGTON BLVD.
HUNTINGTON WV 25705

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit 39



"Uncle Sam." carved and painted wood.
created for the Statue of Liberty centennial
by Bryan McNutt.



NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Thursday, September 9

We are participating in this
event by providing a
registration station at
the Huntington Mall (to
the rear of the Main Entrance)
from noon to 7 PM. If more
notaries would volunteer,
we could offer registration
at other locations. If you're
a notary, or know someone who is
who'd like to participate in
this national effort, call Fran-
ces Huddleston, 736-4452.

In Memoriam

CHLOE DUNFEE

A prominent League member for
many years, Chloe was interested
in all aspects of League endea-
vors and held many positions of
League leadership. Her intelli-
gence and action were an inspira-
tion for us, and she is greatly
missed.



NOVEMBER 8, 1988 ELECTION

NATIONAL ELECTION

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

President and Vice-President of the United States

The nominees from each party are elected at national conventions. They are elected at the November general election for a term of four years. Technically, they are elected by the presidential electors from each state. Salaries - President, \$200,000; Vice-President, \$97,900.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH - CONGRESS

One Senator will be elected in 1988 by the voters of the state for a term of six years. Two senators represent each state. Salary - \$89,500.

One Representative is elected for a term of two years from each congressional district within the state by the voters of that district. Cabell County is in the 4th Congressional District. The number of representatives in a state are determined by the population. Salary - \$89,500.

STATE ELECTION

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The officers are elected by the voters of the state for 4-year terms. The Governor is limited to two consecutive terms.

Governor

The Governor is the administrative head of state government; prepares the state budget; suggests laws for the legislature to consider; approves or vetoes laws passed by the legislature; appoints heads of agencies and members of state boards and commissions; fills vacancies in state offices; is Commander in Chief of the National Guard and State Police; and may grant reprieves and pardons, commute punishment, and remit fines and penalties. Salary - \$72,000.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State is the chief elections official; receives filings for candidacy to multi-county offices and of campaign finance information; oversees voter registration; keeps the record of the Governor's official actions, bills passed by the Legislature, and agency rules and regulations; and is the registrar of businesses. Salary - \$43,200.

Auditor

The Auditor is the state bookkeeper, determining whether bills presented to the state are legal and correct; prepares annual financial reports to the governor; collects some taxes; keeps records of lands forfeited to the State; and audits the accounts of county sheriffs. Salary - \$46,800.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is the custodian of state funds; pays bills when approved by the auditor; keeps records of legislative appropriations and amounts spent; disburses some taxes to local governments; collects some fees; and administers a loan program to businesses. Salary - \$50,400.

Attorney General

The Attorney General handles litigation on behalf of state government; gives written opinions and advice on legal questions when requested by state officials and prosecuting attorneys; and represents the State in claims by the Court of Claims. Salary - \$50,400.

Commissioner of Agriculture

The Commissioner assists farmers and foresters through the Department of Agriculture; administers the controls of insects, diseases, and noxious plants; enforces the regulations on pesticides and fertilizers; and assists in enforcing food health standards. Salary - \$46,800.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Legislature meets annually for 60 days, although special sessions may be called by the Governor. The Legislature passes laws and approves the state budget. Salary - \$6,500 per year plus compensation for food, lodging, and mileage.

The Senate is made up of 34 members, elected for four year terms. One-half of the Senate is elected every two years. The 5th Senatorial District is made up of Cabell County and six precincts of Wayne County. In the 1988 election, the 5th District must elect a Senator from Wayne County. In addition to legislative authority, the Senate has the constitutional power to "advise and consent" to certain executive appointments made by the Governor.

The House of Delegates is made up of 100 members, elected for two year terms. Cabell County and four precincts of Wayne County make up the 11th Delegate District and elect six delegates. All appropriations bills must originate in the House.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Supreme Court of Appeals is made up of five justices, elected for 12-year terms. Two justices will be elected in the 1988 election. Most of the cases brought before the Court are of appellate nature although the Constitution grants some original jurisdiction to the Court. The Court rules on the constitutionality of state laws or actions. It is also responsible for the supervision of lower courts in West Virginia. Salary - \$55,000.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The Bond Enhancement Amendment will be on the ballot for all voters in West Virginia. If passed, the Amendment will increase the percentage that local governments may borrow for capital improvements from 5% of the assessed value of taxable property to 10%.

These bond issues must be approved by the voters -- by a majority, if the bond issue is for schools and by 60%, if for county or municipal government.

The Constitution provides that the principal and interest on the debt are to be paid through taxes designated for that purpose and that the debt must be paid back within 34 years. When school bonds are approved, a property tax sufficient to retire the debt is automatically imposed. But when county or municipal government bonds are approved, the governing officials must designate how the debt will be retired.

COUNTY ELECTION

The County is an administrative subdivision of the State and only has such powers and can perform such duties as are conferred or imposed upon it by the state Constitution and the state Legislature. The Legislature sets the salaries for elected county officials.

County Commissioners

The three County Commissioners are elected for six year overlapping terms, one to be elected in 1988. Only one Commissioner may be from any magisterial district. The most important role of the County Commission is its financial one. It adopts the budget, approves the expenditure of funds, fixes the annual rate of the property tax levy, and serves as the Board of Equalization and Review for property tax assessments. Some other duties are to provide for the care of prisoners, certify the results of elections, operate county property, determine guardianship and incompetency, and appoint members of boards. The Commission may create public service districts, adopt planning regulations, and provide services for the county. Salary - \$20,000.

Assessor

The Assessor is elected for a four year term. Before the annual budget can be prepared and taxes levied for the county, the Assessor must determine the value of all real and personal property in the county and what the assessment on that value is. The property assessments apply also for state, municipal, and school district taxes. State law provides that the appraisal shall be the price at which the owner would sell the property if it were offered for sale voluntarily. Salary - \$24,200 plus \$13,420 for state assigned duties.

Sheriff

The Sheriff is elected for a four year term and is limited to two consecutive terms. The duties are to collect property taxes; disburse funds from the County treasury by order of the County Commission; head County police matters; operate the jail; and serve legal process for the Circuit and Magistrate courts. The Sheriff may be appointed the guardian for persons who are incompetent. Salary - \$24,200 plus \$15,000 for collecting taxes.

Prosecuting Attorney

The Prosecuting Attorney is elected for a four year term. He/she prosecutes criminal law in Magistrate and Circuit courts; represents the County in all civil actions and the State in civil and criminal actions; and is the legal adviser for the County officers. Salary - \$41,500.

Greater Huntington Park and Recreation Commissioners

The unsalaried Commissioners serve six year, staggered terms. Three are to be elected in November. Their duties are to hire staff and set policies for the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Magistrates

Seven Magistrates are to be elected for four year terms. The Magistrate Courts have original jurisdiction in civil cases, not exceeding \$3,000, and concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court in all misdemeanor cases; hold preliminary hearings for felony cases to decide whether the cases should be turned over to the grand jury; and issue arrest, search, and seizure warrants. Some types of cases that come before Magistrate Courts are child abuse, domestic violence, traffic violations, and environmental pollution. THE case load varies, but the average number of cases heard each year is about 4,200 per magistrate. Salary - \$27,000, beginning in 1989.

OTHER OFFICERS

Other County officers who will not be on the ballot in the November election are the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Circuit Court Judges, and members of the Board of Education.

Prepared by
the League of Women Voters
of the Huntington Area

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility among citizens through informed and active participation in government. Membership in the League is open to men and women of voting age. Dues are not tax deductible. For more information about the League, contact 522-3361 or 736-3287.