

NEWS LETTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ATLANTA/FULTON COUNTY
1372 peachtree street nw atlanta-ga 30309 892-5836

January, 1979

ISSUES BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senator Coverdell, Rep. Marcus (standing) Judge Beasley, Lucy Reynolds at lively Dec. 4 forum.

On a night of cold torrential rains Leaguers turned out in force to discuss the issues to be considered at the next legislative session. Comments from four panelist stimulated a variety of questions from the audience at the December 4th forum.

Judge Dorothy Beasley described her participation in the revision of the judicial article of the Georgia Constitution. The court system has developed differently in each county and has created a need to unify the systems so that all the people of the state are served equally. She made a strong plea for citizen input to help sort out and select from the plans for reform.

Lucy Reynolds of the LWV-GA articulated the efforts of the Governors' Tax Reform Commission to try to come up with some plans for long-range tax reform. As a result of a surplus in this year's state budget as well as the need for constitutional amendments for some of the tax changes, the Commission was diverted and began to look at some short-term tax relief measures which could be implemented after this session. She explained the two methods being considered for relief from school property taxes. The first involved an INCOME TAX CREDIT which could be directed to assist any group although it would be difficult to provide relief for the poor who pay no state income tax. The alternative would give the money BACK TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT directly based on either ADA or population or required local effort. The Commission will be meeting Dec. 19-20 to consider these alternatives. It is likely that some constitutional amendments will be presented in 1980.

Senator Paul Coverdell spoke on legislative reform. Positive changes since the days when Lester Maddox presided over the

Senate include the use of a voting machine, a reduction in the number of committees and committee assignments and a reduction in the amount of control the Lt. Gov. has over the calendar. He pointed out the need for better support for the legislators and committees and described some of the ways the campaign disclosure law could increase the power of the incumbent.

Representative Sidney Marcus spoke on the Atlanta-Fulton package, thanked the League for help in passing the legislation in Fulton County and called on us to continue our "audit" of the Fulton County Commission. He noted that the Commission has the authority to institute many of the changes recommended in the legislation. He commended Governor Busbee for being the first Georgia governor to address the long-standing conflict between the city of Atlanta and Fulton County and explained why the amendments had to be voted on statewide, instead of locally. Constitutional revision was discussed as being a more realistic possibility due to the failure of nearly all the constitutional amendments.

THERE IS SOMETHING AFTER CHRISTMAS

something Very Important . . . so please mark your 1979 calendar with big star on January 17 . . . that's the day you have a chance to talk with your local legislators over buffet soup/salad/sandwich luncheon in the Garden Room. So save your pennies (\$5.50 of them) and plan to come and chat with the people who will be making laws that govern you and your budget. Call the office and let them know you'll be there - 892-5836

THE COMMUNITY SPEAKS TO THE LEAGUE
JANUARY 4, 1979 - THURSDAY EVENING
7:30 COLONY SQUARE

Topics to be discussed:

Revitalization of Downtown - Larry Fonts
North Georgia Health System Planning - Susan Haskell
Economic Opportunity Atlanta - Levi Moore
MARTA - Pauline Newman

January is the time for the membership to select program for next year.

This Forum is a chance to explore new possibilities. Your participation is vital.

active citizen participation in government . . .

...a non-partisan organization seeking to encourage informed and

COMMITTEES

URBAN CRISIS - Brenda Griffin

Issues of Urban Crisis: measuring "distress" in the nation's cities, the role of the federal government in alleviating the financial crunch, local tax policy options, and other fiscal matters come to life when you realize that our cities, the cultural, educational, and "people" centers of the United States, are "home" to over half of the populations of the U.S. —this is where most of us are born, raised, educated, where we work and play.

January and February are "big" months for all Leaguers interested in this pot pourri of issues known as "urban crisis". Our next committee meeting is January 11, 12:30 LWVAF office. We will be going over the consensus report statement at this meeting and preparing for our workshop on January 29, 7:30 P.M., Colony Square. This is the time to "tackle" consensus — before unit discussions.

On February 26, 7-10 P.M. at Colony Square, we will hold a conference on "urban crisis", details coming in the next newsletter.

You should have in hand FACTS and ISSUES: Urban Crisis I before the January 29th Workshop. FACTS AND ISSUES: Urban Crisis II, (working title) "How Does Atlanta Measure Up?" will be available for the February 26 Conference.

HUMAN RESOURCES - Judy Rhodes

The Human Resources Committee has been working through letters and meetings to convince Governor Busbee to leave the raise for AFDC members in the budget. It appears now that only an outpouring of sentiment from citizens will save this sum. Some legislators point to the amount now paid a mother and children and explain that they receive 65% of the amount needed. In fact, the amount that the 65% is figured from is a 1970 figure. Based on living costs today, a family receives 35% of what they need. An up-to-date Table of Need has been prepared by the Board of Human Resources. We want them to implement this new standard so that the General Assembly will have to deal with the reality of our very low payments. We now pay \$148 monthly to a mother and 3 children. The proposed raise would bring that to only \$193 and would cost the state \$10.9 million. But we would gain \$22 million in federal funds which will be spent in the state helping fuel the whole economy. PLEASE WRITE GOVERNOR BUSBEE AND DR. SKELTON OF DHR URGING THEM TO SAVE THE INCREASE AND ADOPT THE NEW TABLE OF NEED.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN

For the past year League member Judi Cole has been working with women who do not necessarily need counseling but want someone objective to talk to about what they want to do and how best to do it.

Private seminars for a maximum of six participants are held weekly for six weeks. FREE to League members during January. BUT attendance at all sessions is mandatory. Call now for reservation 255-6854.

NEW UNIT FORMING IN INMAN PARK

The first meeting of the new Inman Park Unit will take place on January 8, 1979 at the home of Sandy Mershon, 108 Elizabeth Street, N.E. This will be an evening Unit Meeting at 7:30 P.M., in hopes of responding to the needs of working women in that area. Pam Prochnow, Action-V.P., will lead the discussion on issues before the 1979 General Assembly and will explain the League's observing and lobbying activities. This is a timely topic, since the General Assembly will be convening on that day.

SCHOOL TOURS

EDUCATION - Edwina Hefner

The Education Committee sponsored a tour on November 14th, of two vocational-technical high schools - Carver Comprehensive High School in Atlanta and the South Fulton Vocational Center located in Fulton County. The tour provided an excellent opportunity to see two different approaches to vocational education at work — the comprehensive versus the specialized or magnet school.

Carver Comprehensive High School is a comprehensive institution offering both the regular or traditional curriculum and vocational-technical courses. It serves residents in the city of Atlanta and students interested in its specialized courses are allowed to transfer from any other high school in the city. Some of the vocational technical courses offered are auto mechanics, welding, food management, brick masonry, cosmetology and tailoring.

The South Fulton Center is a part of the Fulton County School System and serves only residents attending high school in the southern part of the county. It is a magnet school and offers only a vocational-technical curriculum. Students are enrolled on a quarter system and spend one-half of their school day at the center. Transportation to the center is provided by the school system. Some of the course offerings are mechanical-drawing, electronics, auto mechanics, cosmetology and doctor's assistant.

Accompanying League members were persons from the Atlanta Housing Authority, City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. We are deeply grateful to Dr. Norman Thomas of Atlanta Public School System, Dr. Norris Hogan, Principal of Carver High School and Mrs. Holt, Assistant Director of the South Fulton Vocational Center for their assistance in planning and implementing the tour.

LWVAF EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR MARTA

The LWVAF wrote a letter to the Atlanta City Council expressing our concern that Marta funding may be in jeopardy due to the competition for federal funds for the widening of I 85-75. The need to move people in an energy efficient manner was stressed as a reason for our support of MARTA funding as a FIRST PRIORITY.

COURT MONITORS: TRAINING SESSIONS

Monday, Dec. 11 - League office 9:30 A.M.

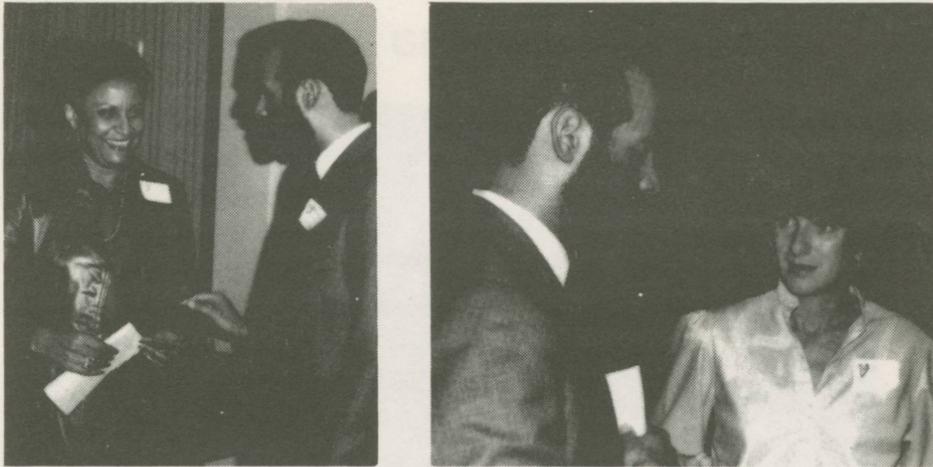
Thursday, Dec. 28 - State Court 11:00 A.M.

(Group will leave League parking lot at 10:30 A.M.)

Monitoring will begin Jan. 8 and continue through the end of March. Any interested persons not already contacted may participate but must attend training sessions. Call Betsey Stone - 355-6009 for further information.

LEAGUE ESTABLISHES LINK WITH FULTON COMMISSION

Those of you who attended the November 27th reception for the Fulton County Commissioners will want to join me in a big "thank you" and a "well done" to the Action Committee of Maggie Moore, Peggy Schurtz, Charlotte Hale, Marcia Padgham, Carolyn Carter and Carol Stevens as well as to the other members who donated yummy food to make the evening a festive occasion. The turnout was good and it gave everyone an opportunity to meet Michael Lomax, a responsive Fulton County Commissioner. The Commissioner also spoke to the Phoenix Unit on December 11 explaining his vision of his new role.



Commissioner Lomax chats with Myrtle Davis, LWVAF President (left) and Pam Prochnow, Action VP (right).

FOCUS ON BOARD MEMBER - Pam Prochnow

Congratulations to Pam Prochnow our Action Vice-President for putting together two excellent forums over the last month. Pam, who is a member of the Eleanore Raoul unit, lobbys and speaks for the LWVAF at numerous meetings and also finds time to play tennis and raise her two children.

OBSERVERS

December means gearing up for a busy time at the legislature. If you would like to see exactly what goes on in committee rooms at the Capitol or how the two houses handle the making of laws and the spending of tax dollars, contact Gerry Krysan 252-9704 and be a legislative observer.

FULTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fulton County is beginning to implement its Comprehensive Development Plan for unincorporated Fulton County. Soon to be initiated is the Target Area Planning Program which will involve citizens in future planning for their neighborhoods. The League will follow this program and will hope to be included in the planning process.

UPDATE ON ERA

John Foster of Cornelia has agreed to be the primary sponsor of the ERA. The League efforts will be channeled through ERA GA. A full page ad in the Journal/Constitution is planned for January. The cost is \$5 per name. Call the office to find out how to get your name on the list.

Legislative strategy is being planned. Call Faye First (355-6846) if you would like to help.

FROM THE PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT . . .

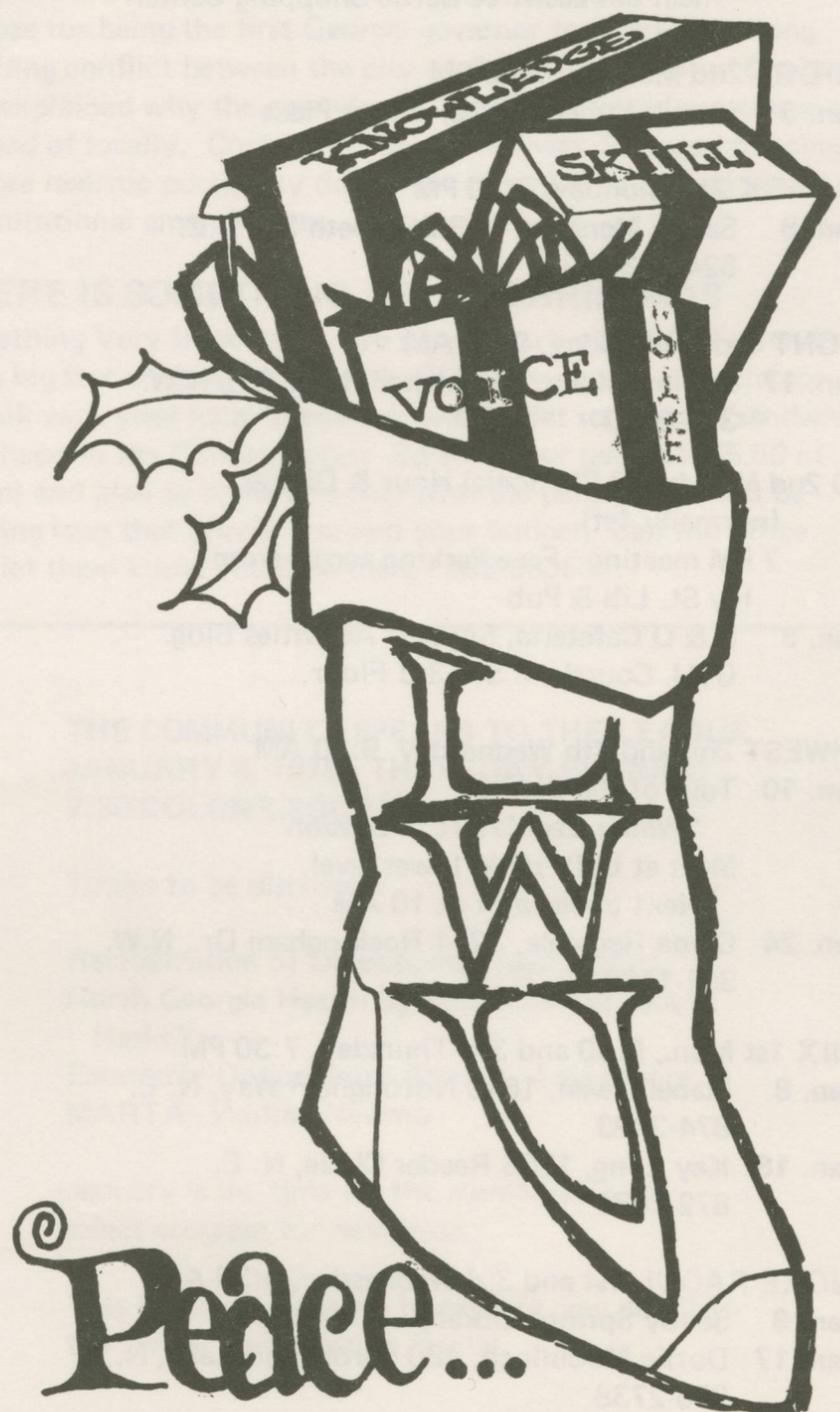
It is time, once again, to order your LEAGUE ACTION SERVICE. This subscription can be ordered from LWVUS, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 for an annual charge of \$7.50. It includes Action Alert and Report From the Hill. LAS tells you when to act and what lies behind current legislative maneuvers. All subscriptions, no matter when entered, run only for a specific session of Congress: from January through December of each congressional year and must be ordered between January and April 1 of each year. After April 1, a part-year subscription order may be placed, starting with June 1 at a cost of \$5.00. This is a good investment for yourself, your schools, etc.

STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAM

State and local program suggestions should be turned in to Ann Curry or the LWVAF office.

Deadlines: State program - January 1, 1979

Local program - January 12, 1979



NEWS LETTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ATLANTA/FULTON COUNTY

1372 peachtree street nw
atlanta-ga 30309

office hours: 9:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
892-5836

address correction requested

UNITS

BUCKHEAD 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 10 AM

Jan. 11 Anna Gussman, 3144 Tower View Dr.
237-9062

Jan. 25 Unit visit to the General Assembly,
meet at Peachtree Battle Shopping Center

GLENRIDGE 2nd Monday, 7:30 PM

Jan. 8 Merrill Lynch Office, Tower Place

INMAN PARK 2nd Monday, 7:30 PM

Jan. 8 Sandy Mershon, 108 Elizabeth St., N.E.
524-0435

LINDMONT 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 AM

Jan. 17 Jamie Golden, 362 Manor Ridge Dr., N.W.
355-0203

METRO 2nd Monday, 6 PM Social Hour & Dinner

(normally 1st)

7 PM meeting - Free Parking across from
Ivy St. Lib & Pub

Jan. 8 B & D Cafeteria, Student Activities Bldg.
GSU, Courtland St., 3rd Floor.

NORTHWEST 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 9:30 AM

Jan. 10 Tour of the Capitol,
"Watch Legislature in Session"
Meet at LWV desk, lower level,
Next to elevator at 10 AM

Jan. 24 Diana Ragsdale, 3211 Rockingham Dr., N.W.
351-1102

PHOENIX 1st Mon., 9:30 and 3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM

Jan. 8 Mabel Owen, 1610 Nottingham Way, N. E.
874-3723

Jan. 18 Kay Long, 1268 Reeder Circle, N. E.
872-1031

ELEANORE RAOUL 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 9:30 AM

Jan. 3 Sandy Springs Library
Jan. 17 Dottie McCulloch, 480 Carolwood Lane, N. E.
256-2738

SOUTH METRO 2nd Wednesday, 9:30 AM

Jan. 10 Episcopal Church, Hogan and Dodson Roads

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Atlanta, Georgia
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Mrs. G. T. Hamilton
582 University Pl., N. W.
Atlanta, Ga. 30314

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

21 ERA GA, 7:30 PM League Office

22 Board Christmas Party 7:30 PM

JANUARY

2 Executive Board Meeting

4 PUBLIC FORUM: The Community Speaks
to the League, 7:30 Colony Square
Community Room

8 Georgia General Assembly Convenes
Newsletter Deadline

16 Board of Directors Meeting

17 Legislative Luncheon - Garden Room

18 Newsletter mailing - Metro unit 7:00 PM

29 Urban Crisis Forum - Colony Square
7:30 PM Community Room

PLEASE SEND THE OFFICE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS
WHEN YOU MOVE

PRESIDENT: MYRTLE DAVIS

VICE-PRESIDENTS: SECRETARY: Meg Taylor
Program - Ann Curry TREASURER: Penny Raney
Action - Pam Prochnow Asst. Treasurer - Betsy Morehouse
Administration - Mabel Owen Photographers:
Newsletter Editor: Patti Gardner Mary Hatcher
Asst. Editor: Chris Carlsten Eudora Rodgers

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ATLANTA—FULTON COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE AIMS - 1979

Each December the League issues its legislative aims for the purpose of informing its membership of its priorities for the upcoming Georgia legislative session. These aims, after being approved by the Board, are sent to all members of the Atlanta-Fulton House and Senate delegation and become the basis for the lobbying efforts of our League lobbyists.

1. GOVERNMENT.

The League of Women Voters of Atlanta-Fulton County continues to seek solutions to better Government services for Fulton County and its municipalities. Legislation which would meet the following criteria would receive our support:

- a. Eliminate the Duplication of service delivery by clearly allocating functions between governmental bodies.
- b. Equalize tax burdens. Eliminate the countywide municipal services tax and consider regional support of services now paid for by the City and utilized by metropolitan residents.
- c. Provide tax base growth potential for the central Atlanta economy. We believe it unwise to freeze Atlanta in its present boundaries without some form of tax base relief to meet the increasing demands on Atlanta as a metropolitan center.
- d. Provide for regional cooperation in area-wide service needs: water, solid waste disposal, air and water pollution control, transportation.
- e. Eliminate conflicting jurisdictions that tend to reduce accountability and diminish inter-governmental cooperation.
- f. Offer avenues for citizen input and participation.

2. GRADY HOSPITAL.

Along with the League of Women Voters of DeKalb County we endorse state aid for Grady Hospital based on the impact Grady has upon our region, as well as the entire state of Georgia.

3. ELECTIONS.

Elections continue to be a priority of our League membership. We would ask that a review of election laws be undertaken with a higher percentage of the population registering and voting being a primary goal. We also recommend legislation that would remove any possibility of confusion as to delineation of responsibilities between the county and its municipalities in the control of elections. In addition, we seek legislation which would end the confusion of polling hours between the city of Atlanta and Fulton County which recently necessitated a special election at an additional cost to the tax-payer.

4. EDUCATION.

Recent League consensus promotes the following positions:

- A. One retirement system for all teachers in the state of Georgia.

- B. State and local systems should assume financial responsibility for the unfunded liability if a transfer is enacted. (Details worked out through a task force.)

- C. If the transfer is not enacted, the State Teacher Retirement System should make direct payments to local retirement systems on the state portion of teacher's salaries.

5. Our support for 100% financing of kindergarten remains a prime concern of ours.

6. We support an appointed superintendent and an elected Board of Education for Fulton County.

7. We believe the present system of electing the Atlanta Board of Education with six districts and three at-large is a good balanced system and should be retained.

8. LEGAL STATUS.

The League supports legislation to aid the plight of battered women.

9. Of prime concern is the funding of the legislation concerning displaced homemakers. And . . .

10. We support the work of ERA Georgia and strongly support ratification of ERA.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES or AFDC

We believe in an adequate level of funding for families with dependent children and would encourage that the limit of basic need be raised to a more realistic percentage and that the basic need schedule be revised to reflect today's living costs.

12. HOUSING.

Legislation authorizing the Georgia Residential Finance Authority to make rehabilitation loans received our support.

13. We also support legislation which would require notice of foreclosure to be sent to property owners. Provisions for housing counseling funds is also a priority.

14. CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

We support appropriations for the creation of detoxification centers to implement the 1974 law passed by the Georgia Legislature stating that public inebriants should receive medical attention rather than arrest and incarceration.

15. We are following the Judicial Article Reform Committee and look to its findings.

16. In conclusion, the League of Women Voters of the United States has been a prime force in gaining representation for Washington D. C. The Atlanta-Fulton League of Women Voters supports ratification of representation for Washington D. C.