

# THE VOTER



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

## Calendar

### January 9

LWVIN Board Meeting  
LWVIN Office, Indianapolis

### January 14

Advocacy Committee Meeting  
Telephone Conference  
12:00 p.m.— 1:00 p.m.

### January 31

Last day to update local roster on  
LWVUS Database

### February 1

Money in Politics Study:  
Response Forms Deadline

### February 14

LWV Birthday

### February 20

Presidents Day-Indianapolis  
10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.  
See Page 8 for more information

### March 1

State Voter Articles Due &  
LWVUS Program Planning  
Response Forms Due

### March 12

Telephone Conference  
12:00 p.m.— 1:00 p.m.

### March 13-19

Sunshine Week

### April 1

LWVIN Juvenile Justice  
Concurrence Due

### April 9

LWVIN State Council  
Prindle Institute,  
DePauw University, Greencastle

### June 16-19

LWVUS National Convention  
Washington D.C.



JANUARY 2016

## Indiana Coalition for Redistricting Reform - Act Locally and Make a Statewide Impact!

Debbie Asberry, LWVIN Advocate for Redistricting Reform



The Interim Study Committee on Redistricting was formed over the summer in response to HEA1003. The first committee meeting was on October 1, 2015. The League of Women Voters in collaboration with Indiana Common Cause has created a multi-faceted coalition (*Indiana Coalition for Redistricting Reform*) whose mission is to raise awareness about the need for redistricting reform and to monitor the work of this study committee. This coalition helped to pack the house for the first meeting of the committee. It is important we monitor the work of this Interim Study Committee and hold them accountable to actually *study the complexity of redistricting reform* and give serious consideration to the various ways that states across the country are *reforming their redistricting processes*. Their final report is due in December 2016. We need serious recommendations for reform to come out this process!

Our strategy as a coalition is *to build local networks* that work serve to inform local citizens about this issue and to make sure that local citizens know about the work of the Interim Study Committee. Julia Vaughn of Indiana Common Cause and Debbie Asberry of LWVIN have connected with local Leagues in Calumet, Anderson, South Bend, Evansville, Knox County, Tippecanoe County, Grant County, Porter County, Hamilton County and Greencastle and we are *eager to work with yours*. Here are a few ways in which you can support this work on a local level:

► Host a viewing of the *Gerrymandering* movie and invite participation for this event beyond LWV membership. (Church groups, civic organizations that League members are involved with, local leaders from city councils, Rotary Club, local Chambers of Commerce of Commerce, print and visual media, etc.) Be thoughtful and tenacious in inviting people to come. Julia or I will be happy to be part of the gathering or assist local leaders in hosting it. Julia Vaughn [jvaughn07@yahoo.com](mailto:jvaughn07@yahoo.com) or Debbie [redistricting@lwvindy.org](mailto:redistricting@lwvindy.org) can provide copies of the 70 minute version of the movie.

► The LWV of Greater Lafayette (<http://leaguelafayette.org/>) has done a remarkable job on their web page to inform the public about this issue and has a link to the 20 minute version of *Gerrymandering: The Movie*. Check it out!

► Local League members can volunteer to speak at civic meetings, college classes, church groups, etc. on the topic about the Study Committee and the issue or redistricting reform.

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## From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

Let's get to work! We recognize all of you worked tremendously hard throughout 2015, and we realize the League members in Indiana aren't going to stop anytime soon, so it's our goal to provide the resources you need to meet your goals for 2016. As we embark on a Presidential Election year, it's quite clear that your work is vital to the health of our Democracy and it's our duty to support that work.

It is with this in mind that we are taking a new approach to some of our Statewide gatherings. We want to create gatherings that will allow you ample time to get to know one another, hear about successes in your communities, and work collaboratively on ways to boost LWV visibility. We believe a concentration on the good works YOU are doing will increase overall LWV membership, visibility, and, overall impact.

The LWVIN also serves as a link between you and the National organization and we encourage you to take advantage of the many resources it has to offer. Please consider taking the time to visit the National website <http://forum.lwv.org/> as well as signing up for the LWVUS updates <http://lwv.org/get-involved>

At the LWVUS website, you will find an extensive library of training webinars covering Program Planning, Tips for Treasurers, Marketing 101, and dozens more. Also available at the LWVUS website are many handy publications, including the most recent *Impact on Issues* in a downloadable PDF form.

And when searching for opportunities to fund your projects, don't forget to look to the LWVUS for help. The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area (LWVSBA) can attest to that. For the third time they have been awarded a grant from the LWVUS to help fund their High School Voter Registration Project. Their League has been granted a combined total of over \$2,000 for their work. Congratulations LWVSBA!

AND speaking of congratulations, because of their due diligence in entering their data into the new LWVUS database, the LWV of Muncie-Delaware County was one of two Leagues randomly selected to win FREE National Convention registrations! Congratulations LWV of Muncie-Delaware County!

We hope you will be able to join us for President's Day on Saturday, February, 20, 2016. (You can find information at: [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)) The day will be focused on learning from each other's successes, how other organizations prioritized and strategized for success, and how we can build our skills in creating robust voter education/service events that provide a community good while also maximizing visibility. Expect LOTS of hands-on activity on Feb. 20! Guest speakers will feature the LWVIN's Issue Advocate for Redistricting Reform, Debbie Asberry, as well as Katie Blair from Freedom Indiana, of which the LWVIN has been a coalition partner since 2013.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our organization. Now, let's get to work!

*Lisa Plencner, Co-President*

### Call to LWVIN Council Saturday, April 9

**Who:** Delegates to the council shall be the president of each recognized local League or an alternate, two delegates chosen by each local League, and the members of the state board.

**What:** Day long gathering of local LWV leaders focused on ... YOU TELL US!

**When:** Saturday, April 9  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (tentative time frame)

**Where:** Greencastle, IN  
Prindle Institute at DePauw University

### *Tell us what you want to focus on at Council!*

Advocacy How-To?

LWVUS Convention & Program Planning?

Treasurer/Financial Best Practices?

Publicity & Visibility?

Fund Development?

Membership Retention & Recruitment?

*Email Erin, Lisa, or your Local League Liaison to  
share your thoughts!*



### Hoosier Environment Council & LWV Visibility

Last November the LWVIN co-sponsored the Hoosier Environmental Council's annual "Greening the Statehouse. We were contacted recently by HEC told that they would LOVE to promote Third House Meetings or any other legislator or candidate event local Leagues plan to host in 2016.

Local LWVs should send information (date, time, location, RSVP link, and short description) to Amanda Shepherd at [ashepherd@hecweb.org](mailto:ashepherd@hecweb.org). HEC will then make sure the information is posted on their website.

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★ **Congrats to Katie!** ★

★ Our student intern, Katie Utley, ★

★ accepted a position with the ★

★ Indiana Supreme Court late last year. ★

★ While we will miss her, we wish her ★

★ the best on this new opportunity! ★

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### Coalition Partners

The League of Women Voters of Indiana could not effectively advocate without the support of our coalition partners throughout the state and nation. These include: Lake Michigan League of Women Voters; Lake Erie Basin Committee; Health Access & Privacy Alliance (HAPA); Indiana Land Use Consortium; Indiana Coalition for Human Services (ICHS); Indiana Clean Elections Coalition; Freedom Indiana; Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA); Indiana Coalition for Redistricting Reform. To find out more information about our partners and their work, you can visit [http://www.lwvin.org/About\\_Coalitions.html](http://www.lwvin.org/About_Coalitions.html).

### LWVIN on Instagram

Our former student intern, Katie Utley, set up our LWVIN Instagram account! The page can easily be accessed by going to [www.instagram.com/lwvin](http://www.instagram.com/lwvin) or by downloading the app on your smartphone and looking us up with our handle @lwvin! If you have pictures from a League event and would like it to be posted, please attach it in an email along with any caption you would like to go with it to Carrie Kelly, [csosbe@lwvin.org](mailto:csosbe@lwvin.org), and she will post it!



### Natural Resources Update

In 2015, the nutrient overloads to our waters contributed to massive toxic algae blooms. Lake Erie had the largest algae bloom ever and the Ohio River also had such a bloom. The Maumee River starts in Fort Wayne and ends in Lake Erie. Three Rivers form the Maumee and all those rivers bring some of the agricultural runoff to the Maumee. The Ohio River had a toxic algae bloom six hundred miles long from Wheeling, West Virginia to Tell City, Indiana. To further understand this problem the League of Women Voters of Indiana has a program available to all Leagues as well as any other organization that are concerned about protecting our waterways. Please email Jeanette Neagu at [jneagu@lwvin.org](mailto:jneagu@lwvin.org) to schedule the program.

The League is represented on the Water Quality Committee which meets with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management staff quarterly to address environmental concerns. At the December meeting, threats to groundwater were addressed with major concern that groundwater will be contaminated by leaks from chemical storage tanks, underground gas tanks, as well as nitrates from manure. The League led the campaign for passage of legislation to monitor above-ground storage tanks and that law is now be implemented, although many tanks were exempted in the legislative process. League members are encouraged to contact Jeanette Neagu, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, if they have local environmental concerns they would like the League to address.

Indiana will host the four state League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region this fall. Date, time, and place will be shared with Leagues as soon as possible.

### National Convention, June 16-19, 2016

Plan now to send delegates to the National Convention in Washington D.C., June 16-19, 2016. Information is on the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).



### Would You Like to Serve? State Board Director Positions

by Barb Schilling, Nominating Committee Chair

The state nominating committee needs your help! We are asking League members to submit nomination suggestions for the following State Board positions: Director, Secretary and Second Vice President. Please send your suggestions with name, email address, and phone number to Barb Schilling, [bartim@att.net](mailto:bartim@att.net).

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## Indiana Coalition for Redistricting Reform - Act Locally and Make a Statewide Impact!

Here are a few ways in which you can support this work on a local level:

- ▶ Local League leaders can invite mayors, city councils, and other appropriate elected official to offer a resolution on the need for redistricting reform. We have create a template for this. Contact Debbie Asberry at [redistricting@lwvindy.org](mailto:redistricting@lwvindy.org) or Julia Vaughn at [jvaughn07@yahoo.com](mailto:jvaughn07@yahoo.com) for sample resolutions.
- ▶ Write letters to the editor emphasizing the need for redistricting reform, asking local elected leaders to support this effort, especially if your area has an elected legislator on the study committee.
- ▶ The LWVIN webpage has several documents that local Leagues can use as resources, including *Frequently Asked Questions* about redistricting and a *Glossary of Terms*. Both of these resources were developed by the LWVUS Task Force on Redistricting.
- ▶ Host an Elbridge Gerry ‘birthday party’ this summer at the public library or lawn of the county seat as a fun way to raise awareness about the study committee and the upcoming elections. His birthday is July 17.
- ▶ During the 2016 elections, be sure to ask questions about redistricting reform when hosting candidate forums or debates.
- ▶ Organize a ‘gerrymander meander’ 5K walk or run around a gerrymandered district. Remember that *shape doesn’t dictate whether the district is gerrymandered*. It is the degree to which incumbents have been protected, communities of interests have been divided, minority voters have been packed or stacked that are the key variables to whether the district is drawn with the public interest in mind.
- ▶ Forward the *Indiana Coalition for Redistricting Reform* newsletter to your distribution list. All local League presidents have been included in the distribution list for that newsletter. Feel free to forward it to your membership and other interested persons.

A roster of the Interim Study Committee can be found on the LWVIN website. Please make good use of the resources provided. If additional resources or support is needed, please contact me at [redistricting@lwvindy.org](mailto:redistricting@lwvindy.org). I will be happy to work with you and your local League in whatever way you need.

Debbie Asberry, LWVIN Advocate for Redistricting Reform

## Jeanette Neagu Honored

Reprinted from League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region website

Indiana Delegate and LWV LaPorte Area member Jeannette Neagu was announced as the winner of the 2015 Art Palleon Advocacy Award at the League of Women Voters Annual Meeting in Glenview, Illinois. She was recognized for her decades of tireless work as an advocate for the environmental health and protection of Lake Michigan.

Jeanette’s stewardship of Lake Michigan began when she was a child growing up in Ogden Dunes where she attended her first League meeting with her mother. Eventually, Jeannette became a part of the Save the Dunes movement that began in the 1960’s and her dedication to the area has never diminished.

Whether lobbying or testifying at hearings about policy matters related to Lake Michigan, writing, phoning, visiting elected officials or traveling to the other Great Lakes states to give public presentations, Jeanette is action-oriented and tireless. She also works to educate community members by speaking on topics such as, “Introduction to Lake Michigan,” “Combined Sewer Overflows,” “Above-Ground Storage Tanks,” and more. Her eye-opening presentations have helped recruit many new members to LWV and to the cause of environmental stewardship.

Jeanette served for several terms as President of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region and is currently League of Women Voters of Indiana’s Natural Resources chair.



## Let's Make an Impact

by LWVIN Advocacy Committee

**Advocacy** 

The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, policy, or interests or active support of an idea or c

The LWVIN's new advocacy committee is off to a great start. The committee has been meeting monthly since November via telephone and is working to identify effective strategies the League can use in the Statehouse. Among other work, Kate Cruikshank (Bloomington) has created legislative contact/assignment sheets tailored for each local LWV that have been sent to all local presidents and voter service chairs.

Barb Anderson (South Central Indiana) chairs the committee and the following serve as Issue Advocates: Erin Kelley (Indianapolis - reproductive rights), Debbie Asberry (Indianapolis - redistricting reform), Kate Cruikshank (Bloomington-Monroe Co. - voting rights), Jeanette Neagu (LaPorte Co. - natural resources), Paulette Vandegriff (MAL - human services), Linda Shanks (Bloomington-Monroe Co. - education), Rachel Guglielmo (Bloomington-Monroe Co. - gun safety). Joanne Evers and Patsy Hoyer (both of Greater Lafayette) have also been eager to help advise and shape the committee's work.

LWV members interested in learning more or in becoming an Issue Advocate are encouraged to contact Barb Anderson at [banderson@lwvin.org](mailto:banderson@lwvin.org). League members interested in serving as watchdogs at the Statehouse by attending committee hearings and key votes should contact Patsy Hoyer at [p\\_loves\\_s@hotmail.com](mailto:p_loves_s@hotmail.com).

A small sampling of current legislation being tracked includes:

- SB 144 (Banks, Schneider, Tomes, and J. Smith, Health & Provider Services Committee) would ban abortions after 6 weeks.
- SB 135 (Tallian, Committee on Elections) would allow county Election Boards the ability to extend voting hours to 8 p.m. on Election Day, more easily creating satellite voting sites, and providing the option to apply as permanent absentee voters.
- HB 1151 (Wright, Committee on Elections and Apportionment) provides that a voter becomes registered to vote when they renew a driver's license or state I.D. card unless they expressly decline this service on their application.
- HB 1055 (Lucas, Public Policy Committee) would prohibit public universities from regulating guns on campus.
- SB 36 (Tomes, Judiciary Committee) would remove the restriction against "alcohol abusers" from acquiring a gun license.



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Book your trips with Travel Concepts International, Inc.  
1-800-762-4216; [www.tci-travel.com](http://www.tci-travel.com)

## Deadline for Updating National Roster

Carrie Kelly, LWV of Indianapolis

Once again the LWVIN board is asking all the local Leagues to make sure their membership roster is up-to-date in the new national LWVUS membership database. On February 1, 2016, LWVUS will calculate the number of members in each League and use that number to determine your League's per-member-payment obligation for the July 2016 PMP invoices. Your League should not be charged for more members than you actually have, and that can only happen if you update the roster before February 1st.

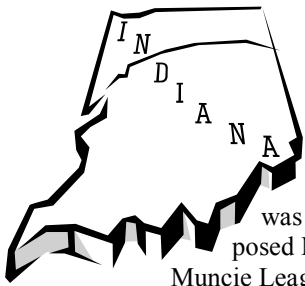
In order to update the database this year, you will need to set a new user ID and password. If no one in



your League has set up your League's user ID and password, please email Allyson G. Legnini, Membership Constituent Relationship Services Coordinator, LWVUS, at [RosterSupport@lwv.org](mailto:RosterSupport@lwv.org), and she will provide you with instructions to setup and update your roster.

If you have any problems making updates, please contact me at [csosbe@lwvin.org](mailto:csosbe@lwvin.org) or Gail Pebworth at [gpebworth@lwvin.org](mailto:gpebworth@lwvin.org), for assistance. Gail and I have access to the LWVUS membership data for all our Indiana members and we can look something up for

you and or make changes if you are having trouble accessing the database.



## Local League Activities

### Anderson

The League of Women Voters of Anderson and Madison County was active in opposition to the proposed Mounds Reservoir. With the Muncie League, we presented an informational program favoring the Mounds Greenway.

In October we sponsored, along with the Anderson Herald Bulletin, candidate forums for mayor and city council. As usual, we are sponsoring with the Madison County Chamber of Commerce and the Anderson Public Library, Third House Legislative Reviews, where our local state legislators can be questioned by their constituents.

### Bloomington - Monroe County

LWV of Bloomington-Monroe County launched our Legislative Updates series on January 9<sup>th</sup>, which will continue monthly while the General Assembly is in session. These events are well attended, attracting many people from the community.

### Brown County

With no local elections in 2015, the LWV of Brown County was able to hold several Community Conversations on issues of interest. In May (after catching our breath from the League Convention in April!), we brought together representatives of the Indiana Department of Natural resources, INDOT, the County Commissioners and local property owners to discuss, with public input, proposed roadwork and logging in Yellowwood State Forest. In July-August and September, we held a series of Conversations with the public on aspects of our initiative to promote wellness and heritage tourism here. The initiative, rooted in Brown County's Vision 2020, brings together stakeholders and experts to discuss and highlight that a community rooted in wellness and celebrating its natural, artistic and historic heritage is a wonderful place to live in and to visit. We hope to galvanize local officials, entrepreneurs, outdoors enthusiasts and artists to think creatively about how to promote and preserve what we have. Our study of Brown County's fiscal health and development strategies has continued, with the benefit that local officials remain aware that we are always watching. Our final event of 2015 was in celebration of the League's 95<sup>th</sup>, partnering with the Brown County Playhouse to bring the new film "Suffragette" to Brown Co in December, and sponsoring a discounted showing on opening night with over 80 people in attendance. We look forward to an exciting 2016 with our voter services activities coming once again to the fore.

### Elkhart

The Elkhart League is working on 2016 programs. Several will have to do with the elections and topics are not yet set. Also, we have been asked by the voter registration office to help with calls and paperwork whenever we are able. We are looking forward to a great year!

### Calumet Area

Members of the Calumet Area League celebrated the League's 95th Anniversary by taking a historical trip to Lafayette in October to learn more about Helen Gougar, suffragette. We visited the Tippecanoe County Historical Association Library and Archives, the home of John and Helen Gougar, Castle Cottage, which is now Fisher Funeral Chapel, the family monument at Springvale Cemetery and had a great lunch at Triple XXX Family Restaurant.

Some important facts: Helen was the first female member of the Tippecanoe County Bar Association; Helen has one of the first women to argue before the Indiana Supreme Court when in 1897, she argued that women are not constitutionally barred from voting in Indiana. If your League is interested in learning more about Helen Gougar and visiting some of these places, please email Betty Quinn, LAVA board member at [equinn1046@aol.com](mailto:equinn1046@aol.com).

### Greater Lafayette

On February 6, LWVGL will host the Annual Legislative Breakfast at which legislators from Tippecanoe County, via a forum format, answer questions about the current session. Open to members and the public, this usually is a packed-house event!

In Fall 2015, we celebrated the League's 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, sponsored the first detailed glimpse of exciting happenings along the Wabash River in Lafayette/West Lafayette as part of our commitment to *environmentally appropriate development*, and presented our Annual Legislators Coffee. A viewing of the movie "Gerrymandering" was offered during the busy autumnal season.

### Greencastle

League of Women Voters of Greencastle has had a fun and busy year. In the fall, we joined with many other local groups to put on a Reality Store for all county 8th graders. Other activities included a public meeting with the Public Access Counselor Luke Britt and an open forum with the Putnam County Sheriff. We held two debates in October: one for county candidates and another for city candidates. Both were well-attended and co-sponsored by the radio station at DePauw and the local newspaper, both of whom supply a member of the panel to ask questions. The fun part for us was going to a member's house a month before the debates for homemade pie and to come up with all the questions! The newspaper also publishes our Candidates' Questionnaire.

Karen Martoglio and Ann Newton attended the LWVIN and Common Cause event at the Capitol to learn about redistricting. Debbie Asberry and Julia Vaughn also came to Greencastle to discuss redistricting and brought the film "Gerrymandering". They are coming again to speak to Kiwanis in February. At our Holiday "Wine and Chocolate" party two new members joined - we were thrilled! Now we are looking forward to our "Soup and Sandwich" meeting in February when we will do program planning and League education.

## Around the State

### Hamilton County

The Hamilton County League hosted three candidate forums last spring for mayoral and city council candidates. We also co-hosted a panel discussion and viewing of the movie about "Redistricting" in October with Common Cause. Indiana Senator Mike Delph of Carmel participated in the panel discussion. We ended our year attending the movie "Suffragette" in November.

### Howard County

The League of Women Voters of Howard County has registered voters at many venues. Vote centers are in the works and we have attended meetings on this subject. A major concern is the hugely inflated number of voters on the rolls. Cleaning up the poll books is not easy and officials would like to ignore it.

LWVHCA worked closely with the Chamber of Commerce and the newspapers in holding debates. Planning the third house meetings is also important to us. Participating in the redistricting movement is another matter of high interest.

### Indianapolis

In an attempt to serve a wider audience and gain visibility in new areas, the LWV-Indianapolis registered voters at venues ranging from community service organizations to a local brewery! We also hosted four city-county council forums, participated in the 95th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by celebrating at SHE VOTES with the Indianapolis Propylaeum, and are currently exploring a partnership with the Center for Civic Literacy and Indy Chamber to reprint the *Unigov Handbook: A Citizen's Guide to Local Government*.

### Knox County

The LWV of Knox County has been preparing to review the Juvenile Justice position. The schedule has been set for the televised "Meet Your Legislators" series with the Chamber of Commerce, PACE, and LWV each in charge of one event.

### Montgomery County

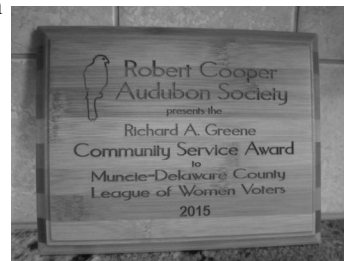
LWV of Montgomery County hosted a reception in City Hall on January 1<sup>st</sup>, swearing in the mayor, city council members, clerk-treasurer, and town board members in the county. This event is very popular with officials and family members, who enjoy refreshments and conversation. We also had 18 announcements, reports, and columns appear in two daily newspapers in Montgomery County during December.

### Porter County

LWV of Porter County experienced an increase in citizen engagement with many voter registration activities, many volunteers helping, and four candidate forums with each one having more than 100 people in attendance. In December, we held a public screening of the movie "Gerrymandering", with Julia Vaughn from Common Cause leading the discussion.

### Muncie-Delaware County

At their annual recognition banquet on November 16th, the Robert Cooper Audubon Society recognized the LWV of Muncie-Delaware County for our work to defeat the proposed ordinance to establish a Mounds Lake Commis-



sion. This award emphasizes the collaborative effort that is keeping the White River free-flowing. On November 14th at the Greening of the Statehouse event in Indianapolis, Heart of the River, with whom we also collaborated received the Organization of the Year award from the Hoosier Environmental Council for building the coalition to stop the dam.

Through 95 years the LWV has developed effective methods for taking action on matters of public policy and for promoting active citizen participation in government. The League process of studying, making common cause, educating, and acting was honored Monday night. It clearly works.

### South Bend Area

South Bend Area tore through 2015 with a program to register new citizens at 11 naturalization ceremonies each year, a press conference with local officials to roll out our 2015 Citizen's Guide, and a successful community event on Women's Equality Day honoring 21 area women representing South Bend's past, present and future, in celebration of South Bend's 150th anniversary.

In 2016, we're registering voters at area schools, with funding from a \$700 LWV(US) Education Fund grant; planning ways to educate the public about redistricting; and launching our first Vote411 online voter guide -- the next step in our work to engage citizens in government.

### South Central Indiana

December has been occupied by a hotly disputed recount of absentee ballots in which large numbers of absentee ballots were discounted, resulting in an overturning of some election results. The LWV of South Central Indiana plans to contact the ACLU to help in a legal protest.

### Southwestern Indiana

Fall was busy with a mayoral debate, yard signs distribution, voter registration, co-sponsorship of a panel discussion on public education issues, co-sponsorship of a City Council candidate forum on health, an airing and discussion of Gerrymandering: the Movie, and a holiday gathering used as an opportunity to address postcards to our legislators concerning public schools. On the second Saturdays of January, February, and March we are the lead sponsor of Meet Your Legislators sessions at the Evansville Central Library -- each attended by 100-250 people. Our Lunches with the League will resume in March.

# President's Day

The League of Women Voters of Indiana will host its annual gathering of local League leaders from across the state on February 20 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at WY's headquarters (1630 N. Meridian Street) in Indianapolis.

The LWVIN's President's Day event is in honor of its anniversary—February 14—and allows local LWV presidents and other League leaders to learn from each other's successes and strategize on ways to make a positive impact in their communities.

"We are grateful to our friends at WFYI for providing us a meeting space for this important statewide gathering," says Erin Kelley, Co-President of the LWVIN. "Meeting at this time of year allows us to celebrate our history while actively building our skills to help create a more civically engaged state."

The featured guest speaker is Katie Blair, Advocacy Director for Freedom Indiana. LWV members will also be treated to an update on Indiana's Redistricting Reform Study Commission by LWVIN 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Redistricting Reform Issue Advocate, Debbie Asberry before breaking into working groups aimed at building event planning, community collaboration, and visibility skills.

**Former LWVIN state presidents, current local LWV (co)president(s), and up to two (2) additional local LWV guests may attend at no cost. RSVPs are needed per individual attending and should be made by clicking the RSVP link at [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org) no later than February 13.**

**Local LWV's wishing to invite additional members beyond their (co)president(s) and two (2) guests are to pay \$15 per guest by February 13. Checks may be made payable to the LWVIN and mailed to 1500 N. Delaware St. Indianapolis, IN 46202.**

All Indiana Leagues are encouraged to begin to more effectively share the value of League membership, to better engage media coverage about the League events and activities, and most importantly to **ASK** friends, co-workers, members of allied organizations and all interested in civic improvement to **JOIN THE LWV!**

## LWVIEF Grant Available

by Carrie Kelly, LWVIEF Treasurer

Voter service is a very big part of the work of the League of Women Voters. Education funds can be used for this important work. Many locals have very small Ed Fund balances, whereas the state League has money available. The LWVIEF Board of Directors has again approved the grant program for FY15-16. There is a \$300 maximum for all local Leagues.

All your League leaders have to do is fill out the LWVIEF Grant Request which can be found at [http://www.lwvin.org/Member\\_Resources.html](http://www.lwvin.org/Member_Resources.html) and email to [csosbe@lwvin.org](mailto:csosbe@lwvin.org) or to the League office in Indianapolis. The LWVIEF will review all grant requests at our board meetings or via an email vote. After your project is complete, you will need to fill out a report on your activities. The last day to apply for the \$300 grant request for this fiscal year is June 1, 2016.



## Members At Large (MAL)

By LWVIN Board of Directors

Are you an MAL? Do you know an MAL? MALs in the League of Women Voters are members-at-large. MALs are League members who have joined the League by sending their dues directly to the State (LWVIN) and do not belong to a local League.

We value our MALs who, along with local League members, support League positions and issues through education and advocacy in their own communities. We want to assure that:

- Our MALs receive the Indiana Voter and national communications for their education and interest.
- Our database is up to date for direct communication to MALs.

- Our MALs are invited to join a nearby local League or perhaps start a NEW League.
- Our MALs are aware of their membership rights including opportunities for consensus and concurrence.

For information, questions, or concerns email us at [league@lwvin.org](mailto:league@lwvin.org).





## League Easy Web

by LWVIN Board of Directors

Many local Leagues (and LWVIN) currently use League Easy Web (LEW) for website development. LEW was developed by LWV of California and is a relatively inexpensive way to develop and maintain a League website. LEW websites also all look the same, creating cohesiveness across League websites throughout the nation.

Starting in January of 2016, LEW will begin making the transition to a new website format to match the LWVUS website. LEW notes that this is a process and not everyone will convert at once. LEW will begin calling and emailing current users about the transition this month and work with users to schedule their transition. If your League is interested in LEW, you could apply for a LWVIEF grant to help defray the costs of the website. More information about LEW can be found at: <https://lwvc.org/league-easy-web>

## Annual Fund Drive

by LWVIN Development Committee



There is still time to donate to our Annual Fund Drive to support the League! Fill out the form below and send your check or money order to League of Women Voters of Indiana, 1500 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

- Contributions made to **LWVIN** are non-deductible and will go to our General Fund. These funds support projects such as development of local Leagues, leadership development, as well as advocacy.
- Contributions made to **LWV/IEF** are 501(c)(3) tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS regulation. These funds support voter service, election reform efforts, educational projects, and political forums.
- Contributions made to the **Barbara E. Zimmer Memorial Fund** are tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS regulation. These funds support the preservation and publication of the history of LWV of Indiana.

1. I designate my gift to the following fund(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ A non-tax deductible gift made out to **LWV of Indiana** in the amount of  
           \_\_\_\_\_ \$30   \_\_\_\_\_ \$50   \_\_\_\_\_ \$100   \_\_\_\_\_ \$200   \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ A 501(c)(3) tax deductible gift made out to **LWV Indiana Education Fund** in the amount of  
           \_\_\_\_\_ \$30   \_\_\_\_\_ \$50   \_\_\_\_\_ \$100   \_\_\_\_\_ \$200   \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ A 501(c)(3) tax deductible gift to support the Barbara E. Zimmer Memorial Fund, made out to the **LWVIEF** (please write "**Zimmer Fund**" on memo line) in the amount of  
           \_\_\_\_\_ \$30   \_\_\_\_\_ \$50   \_\_\_\_\_ \$100   \_\_\_\_\_ \$200   \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO TWO OR MORE FUNDS,  
PLEASE WRITE SEPARATE CHECKS**

2. Please write your name and address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3. We would like to recognize your gift by listing your name in the member newsletter. If you do not wish to be listed, please indicate here:

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do **not** list my (our) name(s).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Check out the  
LWVIN website:  
[www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)**



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# League of Women Voters of Indiana

**Mission Statement:** The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all women and men who are ages 18 years or older and are U.S. citizens. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Activities are funded through membership dues and donations. If you would like to help fund this important work, please send a donation to: LWVIN, 1500 N. Delaware Street, Indianapolis IN 46202. Checks should be made out to LWVIN. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt. Checks for the Education Fund should be made out to LWVIEF.

For additional information, visit [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org).

Submissions to The Voter can be sent to  
Carrie Kelly at [csosbe@lwvin.org](mailto:csosbe@lwvin.org)

**Next deadline is March 1, 2016.**

Editors: Kimber Sorenson Brugh, Jeanette Neagu,  
and Carrie Sosbe

League of Women Voters of Indiana®  
1500 N. Delaware Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

