

THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

JANUARY 2010

Calendar

February 14

LWV Birthday

February 20

Presidents Day-
Indianapolis

See Page 5 for more
Information

March 13

LWVIN Board Meeting
LWVIN Office

March 14-20

Sunshine Week

March 22

State Voter Articles Due

April 10

LWVIN Board Meeting
LWVIN Office

April 30 - May 1

LWV State Council
Terre Haute, Indiana

LAN Updates

Be sure to check
www.lwvin.org for
weekly legislative
action updates!



Leaguers Head to D.C. for Climate Change

Indiana League Member Advocates for Climate Change Legislation met to urge Senators Lugar and Bayh to support climate change legislation before the U.N. Climate Change talks in Copenhagen. Oxfam America sent Leaguer Kathleen Petitjean of the South Bend Area to Washington, D.C., on 27 and 28 October 2009. There, Kathleen joined about 20 other women from across the US, representing multiple organizations as part of Oxfam Sisters on the Planet initiative.



The mission of this initiative is to educate ordinary citizens and their elected representatives about the urgency of global climate change and the disproportionate effects these changes already are having on poor women and children around the world, including here in the United States.

Kathleen worked to spread the message in her own community by helping organize a Lunch with the League on the topic, plus several house parties where participants were urged to write their Senators, requesting their support of climate change legislation. The hope was that the U.S. Senate would vote on the climate change legislation passed by the House, addressing both cutting U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming and also funding international adaptation efforts. Kathleen met with staffers from the offices of Senators Lugar and Bayh and had an opportunity to speak briefly with Senator Lugar about the urgency of the legislation. The Senate failed to take up the legislation in time for the talks in Copenhagen, the South Bend Area LWV continues to work on this topic with the help of grant money provided by Oxfam.



LWV 90th Anniversary

A History of Change – A Future of Hope!

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the American National Women's Suffrage Association, on February 14, 1920 - six months before the final ratification of the 19th amendment giving all women in the United States the right to vote. The LWV of Indiana was also organized in 1920.

During 2010, we will learn more of the significant achievements of the LWV in the past 90 years. Our noble history can be an

inspiration and hopefully a springboard to explore greater opportunities for the future.

Karen Kay Leonard and Betty Doversberger are Co-Chairs of LWVIN's 90th Anniversary Celebration. We will begin our 90th Anniversary year-long celebration with a Governor's proclamation of "LWV Making Democracy Work" Day on February 14.

All local Leagues are encouraged to take advantage of the 90th Anniversary to increase "vision" for LWV activities and effectiveness as well as increasing local visibility, membership, and financial support!



Getting To Know You From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

As I write this article, an old show-tune, "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you ..." plays in my mind because a primary *raison d'etre* for the state League is helping members become acquainted with others from across Indiana. In my experience, League friendships form differently from most others, however. We treasure friends from our home town, from religious groups, from our college life, from the days when our children were pre-schoolers or grade-schoolers, etc. Unlike many of those, League of Women Voters friends usually connect on the basis of our issue passions - for health care for all, transparent local government, fair taxation, etc. In many cases, I do not know whether a League friend is married or has any children or even the date of his/her birthday. This is not because those facts are negligible either to the friend or to me, but because our contact has centered around a political issue, such as whether fire districts in our communities work well and are managed efficiently. Many of the best ideas instituted in my local League have been, to a significant degree, the result of the "cross-fertilization" of ideas shared by some other LWV.

Please be sure your League sends two or three people to the **LWVIN Presidents Day** event on 20 February 2010, at the Environmental Management Institute, 5610 Crawfordsville Road, Entry 15, Indianapolis 46224. Since there is no cost to local Leagues, we especially hope to see representatives from every group: Anderson, Bloomington/Monroe County, Brown County, Calumet Area, Cass County, Elkhart County, Ft. Wayne MAL Unit, Greater Lafayette, Greencastle, Hamilton County, Indianapolis, Knox County, LaPorte County, Montgomery County, Muncie/Delaware County, Porter County, South Bend Area, Southwestern Indiana, and Vigo County. The day represents an important opportunity to make and cultivate League contacts. Registration opens at 9:30 A.M.; the program begins at 10:00; and the day adjourns at 3:00 P.M. Presentations and workshops will center on the census and subsequent redistricting. Be prompt! Our keynote speaker, **Sheila Seuss Kennedy**, a professor in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at IUPUI, will open the day. Useful conversations and workshops will follow and (of course!) we will celebrate the League's 90th anniversary with birthday cake. (Local presidents, why not access the LWVIN web site [www.lwvin.org] right now, and register your, and a guest's, intent to come?)

Speaking of planning, if your League already has decided who will attend **LWVUS Convention** in Atlanta next June, please let me know (kleonard@lwvin.org) each person's name and contact information. The state League wants to be fully aware of our Indiana delegation, including individuals from one place who are "standing in" as official delegates for a LWV from elsewhere. Often there are members willing to attend Convention at their own expense who will vote as directed in advance; so please consider that possibility if needed. The League seeking a proxy delegate needs to request the service, either by contacting me or by directly contacting the prospective delegate. Naturally, any LWV with a proxy delegate will want to schedule a report afterward, either to the local board or to the general membership. Also, hotel costs are diminished when delegates share rooms. If only one person from a local League plans to attend the Convention, we can help set up plans with an Indiana roommate if you notify me of your wishes.

Thank you for contributing to our various get-acquainted efforts in this 90th Anniversary year!

Karen Kay

INTERESTED IN HISTORY??? We are looking for a few Leaguers to help research and update the "History of the League of Women Voters of Indiana." We have tremendous resources, including great archives at the Indiana Historical Society. This should be fun and of great benefit to all Indiana League members!

If interested, contact Gail Pebworth (gpebworth@lwvin.org)



Local Government Study Update

Kathy Dale, Greater Lafayette

We have nine Leagues participating in our Local Government Study! We are now in the process of harvesting from each of them what they have learned. Once we have their responses, we will generate consensus questions to distribute to all Leagues to bring us to a position statement. Please email me (kdale@lwvin.org) for more information about the study.

LWVIN Educates the Public

Paulette Vandegriff, LAN

Redistricting was the subject of a seminar in Indianapolis on December 18, 2009. The League of Women Voters of Indiana/Indiana Education Fund co-sponsored the seminar along with Common Cause Indiana, AARP, Democratic Law Society, Republican Law Coalition, and the Student Bar Association. An overflow audience filled the Senate Chambers in the State House.

The speakers included Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Justin Levitt, J.D., Brennan Center for Justice at New York University and Luis Fuentes-Rowher, J.D., Ph.D., Indiana University. Secretary of State Rokita presented his program, "Rethinking Redistricting in Indiana," Mr Levitt offered a national perspective on redistricting and Professor Rowher spoke of the historical perspective in Indiana. The presentations were followed by a Q & A with audience members.

Redistricting is a 2010 legislative priority for LWVIN.

Go-See Seneca Falls!

Gail Pebworth, Montgomery County

The LWV of Indiana is planning a road trip to Seneca Falls, New York as part of our celebration of 90 years of women's suffrage and the League of Women Voters. Initial plans are to travel August 26-29 at the time of Women's Equality Day. Donna Giroux of Greater Lafayette is helping organize this exciting adventure.

Attractions in the Seneca Falls Heritage Area feature: Women's Rights National Historical Park including the Wesleyan Chapel (site of the first Women's Rights Convention) in 1848, National Women's Hall of Fame, and the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House. Seneca Falls celebrates the role it played in the many Reform Movements of the 19th century. We will also visit the Susan B. Anthony House in Rochester, New York.

If you are interested or have ideas, contact Donna Giroux, Greater Lafayette, (dgiroux@lwvin.org) or Gail Pebworth (gpebworth@lwvin.org).



Position Review Committees

During the first quarter of 2010, four position review committees will work via e-mail to suggest any modifications needed in those positions. The procedure works like this: after each position review committee submits its findings and recommendations to the LWVIN Board, the Board forwards the result to local Leagues (as already has occurred with several positions, the most recent of which was Hazardous Waste). Then each local League considers its agreement or disagreement with the changes, discussing in detail (if desired) "what and why," and returning its comments to LWVIN by a given deadline. The LWVIN board carefully frames the exact wording of the published position after considering all the foregoing comments.

Following Convention in 2007, LWV-Indiana created position review committees to examine its old positions. At LWVIN Convention 2009, delegates directed that volunteers should be recruited to finish the work we had begun. I extend my personal gratitude to the following League members who have agreed to chair these four e-committees:

- Sandra Grant (Cass County) – General Assistance
- Lynne Rump (Knox County) – Tax System
- Sheridan Hadley (Montgomery County) – School Finance
- Harriet Wilkins (Indianapolis) – Motor Vehicle Licensing System

If you are willing to work with one of the above groups during these first three months of 2010 and I failed to ask you personally, please contact me right away (kleonard@lwvin.org), and I'll get you connected with the appropriate chair!

Would You Like to Serve? State Board Director Positions

Lisa Plencner, President, LWVSBA

If you are looking for the opportunity to help set the direction for the LWVIN while expanding your commitment to the League, PLEASE consider serving on the State Board of Directors. We all recognize that the work you are already doing is vital and important, but being a member of the State Board is the perfect chance to use your skills to make even more things happen for you, your League and your community. It's an experience to remember that is demanding, rewarding, challenging and satisfying. Please contact Lisa Plencner (lisa.plencner@comcast.net or 574-532-8121) for further information to nominate yourself or another deserving Leaguer you know.

Local League Activities Around the State



Bloomington-Monroe County

The Bloomington-Monroe League was active on the health care front. In August, we sponsored a screening of the film "Health, Money, and Fear." In September and December we held public meetings on health care issues. In October and November the League explored the local government system in Monroe County, as well as, other poor relief services. We held a public session in December with local members of the state legislature to discuss matters of importance in upcoming legislation. We began January 2010 with our first public Legislative Update.

Calumet Area

We continue to register new citizens at the naturalization ceremonies at the Federal Courthouse in Hammond. Our next Unit meeting will be a program planning meeting for the next year, including the League's 90th anniversary festivities. In March, we will discuss the local government structure in Indiana. We have been interviewing some of the local trustees using the LWV-IN's questions and structure. Our 50-year member, Barbara Royal, remains active as secretary. She has also been the board's liaison with a group working to establish a link with the Purdue University Calumet campus.

Elkhart County

The Elkhart League held its meeting on 20 January. The title was "The Census: Which, What Kind Of, How Many". The census quiz from the 12 September 2009 meeting in South Bend was sent with the newsletter and members were asked to fill in the blanks and bring it to the meeting where the answers were provided. The speaker was Eric Trotter, City Planner for Elkhart and the local census contact person. When more information is available, a candidate's forum, for those running for sheriff in Elkhart County, will be planned.

Fort Wayne MAL Unit

We continue to work toward becoming a "full-fledged" League. Dr. Andy Downs, from the Downs Center for Indiana Politics, will be a speaker this fall. Jan Flapan, Chicago, visited with us and helped us work more on the areas we wish to study and Gail Pebworth has twice visited to work on various aspects of getting our league up and running. We had a booth at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ecumenical service and reception in December. In January, Nancy Hansen is presenting a talk to the American Business Women's Association.

Hamilton County

We are having an officers' meeting this month to plan the 2010 events for the League.

Indianapolis

We finished 2009 having completed or started many different projects. In September, we hosted an educational forum on health care reform that featured guest speakers from the IU Medical School, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and the Bowen Research Center. We also re-issued a Directory of Government Officials for Marion County and under the direction of Carol Fowler launched a new Web site at www.lwvindy.org. Sandra Mowell organized member tours to the President Benjamin Harrison Home and Indiana State House. The Indy League is actively engaged in the local government study.

Montgomery County

The League conducted listening tours to learn about opinions on land use. The information collected will be presented to the county commissioners. We held many forums, workshops, and informational meetings, including school finance, how to run for public office, and Lunch with the League (on various topics). We kicked off our 90th anniversary celebration in January with a Democracy in Action reception at the Carnegie Library. The League partnered with the library for an exhibit about the League of Women Voters, the 19th amendment, and the history of the census.

Muncie-Delaware County

We have had a busy calendar from September 2009 to present. We hosted a meeting on Government Re-organization, reviewed the draft position on hazardous waste for a concurrence, co-sponsored a candidate school with speakers from the Bowen Institute, launched our local government study and celebrated our productive year with our annual holiday brunch in December. We are currently continuing the local government study and planning our LWVUS 90th Anniversary celebration. Our 2010 calendar begins with a presentation and discussion on "Sisters on the Planet."

Porter County

Porter County LWV is meeting monthly, third Thursdays, for lunch with a speaker. January's speaker will be from the Census Bureau which is now recruiting workers in our area.

South Bend Area

For the last quarter of 2009, we hosted federal, state and local leaders to discuss the ARRA of 2009. In October, Congressman Joe Donnelly and Senator John Broden spoke. In December, the series was completed with Mayors



Stephen Luecke and Jeff Rea from South Bend and Mishawaka respectively. Our leaders talked about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and how it impacted our citizens at all levels. Attendance at these three lunches was excellent and a lot of discussion was generated.



President's Day

“A New Decade”

February 20, 2010

9:45 AM- 3:15 PM

Environmental Management Institute

5610 Crawfordville Road, Entry 15

Indianapolis, IN 46224

A very special day of learning and interaction for local LWV Presidents, plus two guests each, will take place on Sat. Feb 20, 2010. A continental breakfast and box lunch will be provided.

Registration opens at 9:30 A.M.; the program begins at 10:00; and the day adjourns at 3:00 P.M. Presentations and workshops will center on the census and subsequent redistricting. Our keynote speaker, **Sheila Seuss Kennedy**, a professor in the School of Environmental and Public Affairs at IUPUI, will open the day. Useful conversations and workshops will follow and (of course!) we will celebrate the League's 90th anniversary with birthday cake.

We Need Your RSVP by Monday, February 15, 2010

Presidents Day Registration for Local League President and two guests:

- REGISTER ONLINE at www.lwvin.org
- OR send email to event@lwvin.org (include your phone number, email, and League name)
- OR call 317-241-VOTE (8683)



Thanks

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the LWVIN/IEF Finance Drive! We have raised over \$4,500 with your help. If you have not contributed, there is still time! If you have lost your response form, you can email Carrie Sosbe (csosbe@lwvin.org) for a new one.

Jim Arnold
Rose Marie Baer
Linda Barb
Patience P. Barnes
Tami Barreto
Mary Bent
O. Franklin Beumer
Nancy and Peter Boerner
Mary Boggs
Alfred Boissevain
Laura Bornholdt
Kathy Brown
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Lois Clark
Kendra Clauser
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Ruth Dowden
Rochelle Drake
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Jim Dworkin
Sarah Emerson
Joanne Evers
Indra Frank
Susan Fuldauer
Donna Giroux
Suzanne Godich
Joan Goldstein
Leonard Goldstein
Sandra Grant
Robert Gray
Kitty Haffner
Avrom Handleman
Claiborne Handleman
Patricia Harris
Sharon Harruff
Glenda Hernandez
Albrecht Holschuh
Edmar Hoppe
John Hoppe

Nikki Hutchinson
Joan Dee Kahn
Erin Kelley
Kelley Kelsey
Kimberly Kimbler
Carol Kirk
Ann Kolata
Janet Kramer
Karen Kay Leonard
Dorothy Lyman-Resneck
Kaye McSpadden
Deborah Meader
Carole Meyer
Fred Meyer
Frances Moore
Kay Nannet
Betty Lou Nault
Dee Naylor
Phyllis Nieske

Virginia Nilles
Gail Pebworth
Emmy Peebles
Marietta Pesel
Patricia Murphy Pizzo
Mary Rutherford
Susan Savastuk
June Schaprio
Alice Schloss
Ada Shaum
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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, 445 N Pennsylvania Street, #910, Indianapolis IN 46204. 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.

Submissions to *The Voter* can be sent to
Dee Naylor (dnaylor@lwvin.org)
Deadline for Next Submission: March 22, 2010

Editors: Dee Naylor and Carrie Sosbe

League of Women Voters of Indiana®
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