

# THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

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JULY 2012

## Membership and Leadership Development Program

by Gail Pebworth, LWVIN Coordinator

*The MLD program has been initiated by the LWVUS to provide local Leagues with proven resources, techniques and support for membership growth and leadership development.*

During 2011-2012, eight local Indiana Leagues participated in the Membership and Leadership Development program: Calumet Area, Cass County, Elkhart, Ft. Wayne Area, Greater Lafayette, Knox County, Muncie-Delaware County and South Bend Area. The total net percentage of membership growth in 2011 of these eight Leagues was 14%. Our newest MLD League is Brown County, which had training in March.

The next training will be hosted August 11<sup>th</sup> by LWV of Calumet Area. Both LWV of LaPorte County and the Porter County MAL unit are being invited. Additional trainings can be held this summer/fall. Any League interested in participating in the MLD program should contact LWVIN Coordinator Gail Pebworth ([gpebworth@lwvin.org](mailto:gpebworth@lwvin.org)).



Look for more LWV  
Convention Pictures Online

## League of Women Voters of Indiana: 2012 Regional Workshops

Every LWV member is invited to the fall workshops. Each workshop gives Leaguers a chance to learn about League issues and share ideas. A few experts and many experienced Leaguers produce a rich stew of discussion ideas. Come be a part of the experience.

**Southern Indiana -- Saturday, August 25 – 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**  
Ivy Tech Community College, Evansville, Indiana

**Northern Indiana -- Saturday, September 8 – 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**  
Ivy Tech Community College, Muncie, Indiana

**Local League Displays:** Local Leagues are encouraged to bring their displays to showcase their programming and the creative ways that they are promoting the League in their community. There will be time throughout the day to meet members from other Leagues and share ideas.

**Local League presidents and contacts will receive notice about the registration procedure and fee information shortly.**



## Primary to General – Voter Service From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

With the Primary Election recently past and the General Election ahead, every League of Women Voters group is examining its plans. Leagues strive to reach citizens with nonpartisan voter information, to encourage voters to think through both the issues and the candidates' claims, and then to convince every registered voter to cast a ballot on election day. If there is a single LWV commitment that most attracts members and supporters, it is probably our voter service.

We all have observed election outcomes that were determined by who stayed home. Why might that happen? Maybe the person feels her vote won't make a difference. Maybe he encountered obstacles and has no photo ID. Perhaps she has no transportation that will allow her both to vote and also to get to work on time. Perhaps he moved and failed to change his voter registration. The reasons are legion.

No group of local volunteers could meet every need for every voter. So our leagues do what they can, depending on the size and energy of their membership. In this space, I cannot detail all the activities through which leagues serve their communities' voting public. However, here are some present and recent efforts:

- Holding public meetings to inform people about ballot questions
- Publishing voters' guides (paper or electronic) for local candidates and ballot issues
- Posting candidate or ballot information at the local or state LWV web site
- Posting candidate or ballot information at <[www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org)>
- Sponsoring candidate meet-and-greet events, debates, or forums
- Assisting individuals who are experiencing difficulty obtaining a photo ID
- Registering voters
- Writing or helping edit county election worker training material
- Assisting County Clerks with election worker training sessions
- Reminding citizens to become informed and then to **vote** on Election Day
- Responding to telephone and e-mail inquiries about voting and elections
- Serving as polling place election workers
- Furnishing rides to the polls
- Monitoring the election process, using LWV surveys to compile information
- Conferring after elections with the local Clerk or Election Board to improve practice
- Seeking continually to generate better election laws and procedures

Since members of League of Women Voters tend to be committed and creative volunteers, new avenues of service emerge constantly. While remaining strictly nonpartisan, leagues strive to enroll, engage, and empower voters.

*Karen Kay*

**INTERESTED IN HISTORY???** The LWVIN is actively searching for a few Leaguers to assist in the updating of the History of the LWV of Indiana, made possible through generous donations to the **Barbara E. Zimmer Memorial Fund**. We have a wonderful history, 1920-1952, *PAST is PRELUDE* as written by Katherine Croan Greenough and prepared by Donna Langfitt, as well an amazing collection of documents (going back to 1908) catalogued and stored in the Manuscript and Visual Collections Department at the Indiana Historical Society. If LWV history interests you, contact Gail Pebworth at [gpebworth@lwvin.org](mailto:gpebworth@lwvin.org)



2012 Power the Vote Award

LWV of Calumet Area was selected one of four finalists for the prestigious High Impact Online Engagement Award presented at the LWVUS Convention!! This award applauded Leagues that recognize that voters are relying more on social media and social network to give them up-to-date information about important issues. The other three Finalists were: LWV of Florida, LWV of Asheville-Buncombe County (NC), and LWV of Michigan. CONGRATULATIONS, CALUMET AREA!

Local League Liaisons

A member of the State Board has been assigned to each local League as a liaison to help increase the State Board's awareness of programs and activities of local Leagues; to provide helpful information, resources, and training to local Leagues; and, to facilitate communications among local Leagues. The state board member's home League is shown in parentheses. Local Leagues are asked to include their LLL on mailings and e-mail lists. LLL assignments for 2012-2013 League year are:

- Anderson-Barb Anderson (South Central Indiana)
Bloomington/Monroe County -Susanne Gaudin (Brown County)
Brown County-Linda Shanks (Bloomington/Monroe County)
Calumet Area-Gail Pebworth (Montgomery County)
Cass County-Betty Doversberger (Greater Lafayette)
Elkhart County-Geri Pawelski (South Bend Area)
Fort Wayne Area-Kimber Sorenson-Brugh (South Bend Area)
Greater Lafayette-Amy Miller (Indianapolis)
Greencastle-Janet Rose (Vigo County)
Hamilton County-Karen Kay Leonard (Indianapolis)
Howard County-Betty Doversberger (Greater Lafayette)
Indianapolis-Lorraine Jensen (Hamilton County)
Knox County-Janet Rose (Vigo County)
LaPorte County-Geri Pawelski (South Bend Area)
Montgomery County-Albrecht Holschuh (Bloomington/Monroe County)
Muncie-Delaware County -Kimber Sorenson-Brugh (South Bend Area)
Porter County MAL Unit-Gail Pebworth (Montgomery County)
South Bend Area-Carrie Sosbe (Montgomery County)
South Central Indiana MAL Unit-Susanne Gaudin (Brown County)
Southwester Indiana -Barb Anderson (South Central Indiana)
Vigo County-Linda Shanks (Bloomington/Monroe County)

Information on Membership Development

by Gail Pebworth, LWVIN Membership Chair

The former Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) launched by the LWVUS in 2006 has been revised and expanded with an added emphasis on Leadership Development. The mission of the League of Women Voters has never been more needed than today. For local Leagues to carry out our mission, we need more members as well ongoing identification and training of local and state leaders.

The first Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Training was held in West Lafayette July 9 with representatives from five Indiana Leagues.

LWVIN Council Reprise

by Karen Kay Leonard

Our early May LWVIN Council in Kokomo was successful from three vital standpoints -- accomplishing the necessary business, learning useful information to take home, and having fun. In the plenary sessions, we adopted the proposed budget and elected the nominated slate without changes. On the sidebar of page one of this Voter, you can see a list of Board members. We welcome back those returning and are very pleased to include Barb Anderson, Geri Pawelski, and Janet Rose as new members! At LWVIN Council, useful information flowed freely in LWVIN workshop sessions, as well as from formal presentations. Andrew Downs, from the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics in Ft. Wayne, provided helpful insights about elections and voting, and the South Bend Area and Calumet Leagues impressed us with accounts of their organization and execution of high school voter registration and naturalization ceremony registration, respectively. For fun, there was everything from an historic home tour to the opportunity to add colorful "shrinky-dinks" to one's fingernails. Our hosts, Sandy Grant and her colleagues from League of Women Voters of the Howard County Area, provided open-hearted hospitality at the Council site, at the Seiberling Mansion, and at Sandy's home. Personally, I am grateful to all participants for the opportunity to become better acquainted. It is a pleasure to know and to work with you.



Katherine Greenough Membership Awards

At the 2012 LWVIN May Council Meeting in Kokomo, three local Leagues received the Katherine Greenough Membership Awards in recognition of their outstanding percentage increase in membership during 2011: Fort Wayne Area +70.1%, Cass County +64.3% and Brown County +50%.



## Local League Activities Around the State

### Anderson

Our educational meeting on April 14 topic was "An Assault on Women's Health," and featured Betty Cockrum, President of Indiana Planned Parenthood. At our April 30 Annual Meeting, we adopted a nonpartisan policy for our local league. This year we have enlisted three new members, bringing our membership to ten. We are interested in supporting the LWVUS emphasis on "Money in Politics."

### Bloomington - Monroe County

In April, our League co-sponsored with Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan a "Community Conversation on Health Care." All candidates running in the primary election for the position of Indiana's 9<sup>th</sup> District US Representative were invited. Only current Representative Todd Young did not attend. Dr. Rob Stone served as moderator, with questions being submitted in writing by the audience. Our Health Care Committee has been actively lobbying for a single-payer system.

### Brown County

In 2010, trained poll workers in one of our precincts made the assumption that the new voter ID laws made signing the poll book obsolete. Although matters were corrected, over 200 voters had cast ballots without signing. A ruling was made to let the results stand per statute. Our league saw an opportunity and offered to help the Clerk's office with training. A plan was devised to allow the leaguers to role-play voter problems. We do plan to participate in future trainings which will give us visibility and help ensure fair elections.

### Elkhart County

Elkhart held their Annual Meeting on 16 May. We had a program about vote centers but they are not in our county yet. There will be a planning meeting for new programs after the convention.

### Greater Lafayette

We completed a successful year with praise and good cheer at the annual meeting in May. However, there is no time to waste and planning for a busy election year is underway. Voter Service is the priority with multiple voter registration and information events planned. Understanding the voter ID and the voting process in Tippecanoe County is our focus. In September a state legislative candidate's forum and a public forum on the voting process is scheduled in cooperation with other non-profits. Additional activities will include membership and leadership development and greater visibility for the League in the community.

### Greencastle

We held elections at our annual meeting on Wednesday, May 23, and we have new Co-Presidents! Leslie Hanson will share the job with Karen Martoglio. Pam Propson will continue as

### (Greencastle continued)

Secretary and Tiffany Hebb will take over as Treasurer after Peggy Wood's 23 years! We look forward to a year of more programs and new members. Ann Newton is our Public Relations chair. We voted and passed the revised by-laws which were rewritten by our new co-president Leslie Hanson and her committee.

### Hamilton County

Our league held one county wide candidate forum in April for the positions of county commissioner, county treasurer and county council at large. It was well attended. In May, Patrice Waidner chaired two county trustee panels which proved to be very informational as well as educational for a county which supports an agricultural base along with a very populated base. League will be hosting its annual meeting in June.

### Howard County Area

League of Women Voters of Howard County Area was delighted to be the host city for the LWVIN council meeting in May. Our members worked hard manning the registration table, selling mugs and pens, being floor monitors, and attending as voting members. As a new(ish) league we are happy to be part of the state wide organization. We plan to attend a panel discussion in Cass County on maximum and minimum sentencing for drug offenses.

### Indianapolis

Like many of you, LWV-Indianapolis recently completed the LWVUS privatization study. Our study was quite successful and highlights included guest speakers Carey Lykins, CEO of Citizens Energy, and Sheila Suess Kennedy, a law professor at IUPUI. At our annual meeting on June 2, we conducted LWV business and had opportunity to interact with our guest speaker, Justice Ted Boehm. Justice Boehm (now retired) was the only Indiana Supreme Court jurist to side with LWVIN in its lawsuit against Indiana's Voter ID law.

### Montgomery County

The LWVMC hosted a County Primary Candidates Forum in April, featuring a debate among County Commissioner and County Council candidates, and a Meet & Greet session for all candidates on the ballot. Also in April, we staffed a "Voting Booth" during our local Business & Professional Women's annual "Reality Store" event, where all county 8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in a simulation of adult life. In May, we held our Annual Meeting, during which we invited the recipient of our 2012 "Making Democracy Work" award to be our speaker.



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



## Local League Activities Around the State continued

### Muncie-Delaware County

Our top priority is an online voter guide, to be published in cooperation with the Bowen Center for Public Affairs at Ball State University, linked to 411VOTE. We are expanding our yearly board retreat into an every-member visioning retreat. Our focus will be membership/leadership and local study/action topics. At our Annual Meeting, we passed the 2012-2013 budget, 2012 revised by-laws, elected the nominated slate and gained a new member. Our meeting was held in a facility which sets a local environmental standard with geothermal heating and cooling system and a "green" roof.

### Porter County MAL Unit

The Porter County MAL unit delivered voter registration materials to our 8 high schools. Principals and Social Studies teachers were pleased to be involved. We hosted a viewing of *Iron Jawed Angels* at the Valparaiso Public Library on May 31 at 6:00 PM.

### South Bend Area

With a successful high school voter registration program behind us, our co-presidents attended the LWVUS Convention, where they co-hosted the caucus "Effective Voter Registration Targeting Underrepresented Populations." LWVUSBA is very excited to have been invited back to all the high schools we visited. Area high schools not included in this year's project have also invited us into their classrooms to register their eligible students to vote! Our League's "No Vote / No Voice" campaign is boosting both the League and our community!

### Southwestern Indiana

The LWVSWIN Annual Meeting and Election of Officers for 2012-13 was held on Saturday, June 23, 2012, at Oaklyn Branch Library in Evansville. State Senator Vaneta Becker and State Representative Gail Riecken were our guest speakers, discussing state legislative activity, committee work, and the Fall 2012 election.

## LWVIN Office Operations

by Karen Kay Leonard



The changes resulting from our office relocation last November may have LWV members wondering how the state office now functions. Some remember when LWVIN rented separate office space, owned its furniture, and employed a half-time assistant to keep the organization on track. All that has changed. Our latest shift entailed relinquishing the services of and file storage at Susan Ellis' company, (variously named the Non-Profit Team, WorkPoint Advisors, and Behind the Scenes) in downtown Indy. When Susan changed both her location and her business, LWVIN had to move. Now our files are stored and our mail is delivered on Indy's west side at the Environmental Management Institute, 5610 Crawfordsville Road, #1500, Indianapolis, IN 46224. For twenty years, this address has been home to my husband Jack's non-profit business, where people are trained to deal with hazardous materials. Besides mail delivery and file storage, LWVIN is able to schedule Board meetings and special events there. All this represents a very good value at a low rental rate.

Our less-is-more, electronically-connected society continues to enable changes in the management of LWVIN office procedures.

- *Postal mail* – This summer I will be picking up LWVIN incoming mail. Generally, this involves responding to inquiries; depositing, recording, and reporting incoming checks; alerting officers or directors to news, etc. Outgoing mail is posted by the responsible officer or director, using LWVIN's return address. Much business now can be conducted via e-mail.
- *Copy services* – LWVIN is assigned a code number at EMI and can make copies for which we then are billed.
- *Telephone calls* – Our AT&T mobile telephone uses the state league's long-time number [namely, 317-241-VOTE (-8683)]. Its message identifies LWVIN, noting that the voice mail is checked daily. Then I return calls or pass along messages. (Many of the calls LWVIN receives are intended for one or another of the local Leagues.) For group telephone conversations, LWVIN contracts with TelSpan and is billed monthly. During dangerous weather, or when quick action is important, such conferencing is a tremendous help.
- *Website notices* – LWVIN maintains its domain name, <lwvin.org>, via a contract with GoDaddy. Through June, Susan Ellis' husband, Jerry, will continue as our web master. Lorraine Jensen communicates with him about changes, and he enters them. However, our hope is to migrate to a new website which will allow LWVIN to enter changes without an intermediary.
- *E-messages*: One especially convenient feature of our web site is that every local president, as well as all LWVIN officers and directors, can receive e-mail funneled directly from the site to their regular account via a pass-through address constructed according to the following formula: <first initial plus surname (no spaces or punctuation) @lwvin.org>. Mine, for instance, is <kleonard@lwvin.org>.

All this demonstrates the fact that our state office is largely virtual. But, never fear. Your LWVIN Board is vigilant and active, eager to maintain effective communication and LWVIN visibility.



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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, 5610 Crawfordsville Rd, Ste. 1500, Indianapolis IN 46224. 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  
Dee Naylor (dnaylor@lwvin.org)  
Deadline for Next Submission: September 24, 2012  
Editors: Dee Naylor and Carrie Sosbe

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