

THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

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FEBRUARY 2013

Legislative Action Network: January 7– 25, 2013

Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator



At this writing, the Indiana General Assembly has completed eleven days. More than a thousand bills (including "vehicle bills") have been filed. All have now been through the first reading and assigned to committee. Conferences with legislators have begun. The week of January 7th, I met with Representative Jerry Torr, author of HB1008, Redistricting Commission. The week of the 21st, I met with Rep. Milo Smith, Dist. 59, Chair of Elections & Apportionment, to talk about redistricting bills that have been filed in the House. (After all, it's just seven years until the next census!) Other bills of potential LWV interest are in circulation. A member of LWV, Senator Karen Tallian, has filed SB469, Mandatory Kindergarten. Two related bills have been filed in the House, HB1302 and HB1306, Age for Mandatory School Attendance.

The LWVIN's primary priorities -- Education, Reproductive Rights and Election Law -- will be followed by Issue Advocates Bob Shanks and Erin Kelley. Election Law will be followed by Betty Doversberger, chair of the Election Monitoring Committee. We will review bills and act as necessary as the session progresses. A bill-watch list will be coming shortly.

President's Day

Presidents Day is our annual statewide event, planned with you in mind and provided at no fee. If Indiana roads are safe for travel on February 16th, we hope each president will come, along with two others whom s/he invites. Opportunities to learn and to share will be available. Ongoing coffee, a morning snack, and a box lunch are included. The breakfast snack will be available by 10:00. Our keynote speaker, Bill Buffie, M.D., will analyze potential effects of the marriage amendment, and the three workshops will focus on children's issues, local education funds, and health care. (Each participant will have time to attend two workshops.) Of course, local presidents will have opportunity to 'boast and bemoan.

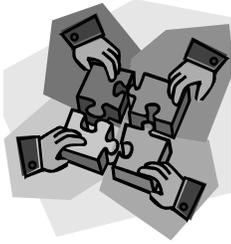
When? Saturday 16 February 2013, 10:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Where? LWVIN headquarters at Environmental Management Institute
5610 Crawfordsville Rd, #1500
Indianapolis, Indiana 46224

We Need Your RSVP by February 11, 2013

• Please register at event@lwvin.org by providing your LWV name, plus your own name, e-mail address, and telephone number. Watch our web site www.lwvin.org and your e-mail for further information.





They Also Serve From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

Although fourteen LWVIN members currently serve on the state Board of Directors, many others offer you significant service beyond the local League. Please thank them when you see them! As an example of the breadth of LWVIN's work, peruse the list of recent appointments.

Usually, appointment terms are 2 years; so there is another list of similar size with terms expiring at the end of this year.

Appointment 2013-2014	Person
Nominating Cmte member	Barbara Schilling, Calumet Area
Budget Cmte members	Kendra Clauser, Indianapolis Donna Giroux, Greater Lafayette Sandra Grant, Howard County Area
Investment Cmte Chair	Harriet Wilkins, Indianapolis
LAN Coordinator, Rep. to Indiana Human Services Coalition, and 2 nd rep. to Midwest Democracy Network	Paulette Vandegriff, MAL
Election Monitoring Cmte members	Kimber Sorenson-Brugh, South Bend Area Harriet Wilkins, Indianapolis Jeanette Neagu, LaPorte County Carrie Sosbe, Indianapolis
Membership & Leadership (MLD) Development Cmte member	Kimber Sorenson-Brugh, South Bend Area
MLD Coach	Barb Reed, Cass County
Member-At-Large Coordinator	Gail Pebworth, Montgomery County
Copy editor, <i>Voter</i>	Barbara Wellnitz, Indianapolis
Study Coordinator	Albrecht Holschuh, Bloomington-Monroe County
Issue Advocate – Education	Bob Shanks, Bloomington-Monroe County
Issue Advocate – Energy	Laura Arnold, Indianapolis
Issue Advocate – Reproductive Choice, Rep to Health Access & Privacy Alliance and to Get Real, Indiana	Erin Kelley, Indianapolis
LWV-Lake Michigan Rep	Jeanette Neagu, LaPorte County
LWV-Lake Michigan Alternate	Janet Greenwald, LaPorte County

The LAN (Legislative Action Network) Coordinator is our primary contact at the Statehouse, previewing bills, listening to legislators, and speaking on behalf of the League. The Issue Advocates help by reading potential legislation in their respective areas and alerting Paulette or me when League action is particularly needed. Our statewide priorities for the 2013 session are:

- First Tier --Election Law, Education, Reproductive Choice
- Second Tier --Health Care, Environmental Concerns, Redistricting, Gun Control

You render LWV's mission meaningful every time you contact your elected representatives about either League priorities or your own personal concerns. Whether you are the president (or designated spokesperson) who speaks for your League or you speak or write as an individual (not mentioning the League), you are *engaged* in the political process in exactly the ways for which LWV hopes and works! Thank you.

Karen Kay

Membership & Leadership Development Coaches

Gail Pebworth, Montgomery County

LWV of Indiana hopes to expand the number of local Leagues participating in the proven successful MLD program supported by the LWVUS. MLD Coordinator Gail Pebworth is eager to recruit a few more MLD Coaches. This is a great opportunity to interact with local, state, and national MLD leaders, receive training materials and resources from LWVUS! If you are interested in learning more, contact Gail at <gpebworth@lwvin.org>.



LWVIN Convention

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 April 2013
Turkey Run Inn at Turkey Run State Park

Room reservations: Call 877-563-4371 and ask for the League of Women Voters of Indiana rate, using code **0427wv**. Consider securing your room reservations now. It is easier to cancel time than to secure it late. (You may want to request an extra night before or after, in order to better enjoy the park itself.) Delegation registration with LWVIN can wait until March.

Would You Like to Serve? State Board Director Positions

Joanne Evers, Greater Lafayette, Nominating Committee Chair

Are you ready for a new challenge; a new learning experience in the League? The LWVIN Nominating Committee is looking for individuals to serve the League on the state level. Serving on board as a director or off board on state committees are both options. Consider nominating someone in your local League or yourself! The Nominating Committee consisting of Lisa Plencner, Gail Pebworth, Barb Phelps, Barb Schilling and Joanne Evers, chair, is seeking nominations. Contact any of the current nominating committee members. Joanne Evers can be reached at <jevers@lwvin.org>



State Convention Silent Auction

Please consider any items that you would like to donate from your local leagues for the silent auction at the state convention in April. All donations are welcome, and we especially look forward to those items that share a little piece of your local league's city, town, or history. Auer prints will also be available for purchase. The auction planning committee thanks you in advance for helping to make this annual event fun for participants. More details to follow in the April Voter.

LWVIN Program & LWVIN Convention LWVIN Board

Most local Leagues hold an annual program review meeting. In odd-numbered years, we review state and local program; in even-numbered years, we review national program. This rhythm prepares us to express our views in the LWV meetings at which official actions will be taken – annual meeting, in the case of local Leagues, or convention, for state or national.

Of course, in LWV parlance, *program* does not simply mean, “Let's get a speaker or a panel to inform us about this topic.” Instead, it is a technical term for LWV positions, on which any issue-related LWV action must be based. Local, state, and national positions cannot conflict. This insures that the organization can speak with one voice. Most positions at each level were reached by study and **consensus**, a process led by a study committee, during which members examine the pros and cons of an issue, discuss it in detail, and reach member agreement that expresses “the mind of the League.” If member agreement is not apparent, then no position is declared. A few positions have been reached by **concurrence**. In that process, the findings and position of a local or state League usually are used to craft a brief position statement. Members agree to that position by concurring with it, or no position is declared. The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers. The national position on gun control was adopted by concurrence. (See page 20, *Impact on Issues*).

Local Leagues have sent or will send their **program recommendations to LWVIN before 1 March 2013**, enabling the LWVIN Board to make recommendations for Convention, 27-28 April 2013. The recommendations may relate to current positions (keep, update, drop) or to new studies. LWVUS positions are easy to access at <lwv.org> by searching for *Impact on Issues*. LWVIN positions can be viewed on or printed from our web site, <lwvin.org>. If your local League wants to advocate for a new study, whether it would have the possibility of extending a current position or of establishing a new one, then send a carefully-worded suggestion, including the study's “Scope” and “Outlook for Work,” to Albrecht Holschuh <aholschuh@lwvin.org> asap (certainly before March 1). This is a particularly open year for potential acceptance, since the LWVIN Board has not recommended the adoption of any new studies.



Local League Activities Around the State

Bloomington-Monroe County

After a grueling election season, we reviewed voter service activities to identify successes and problems and formed a group to suggest possible changes. One perceived difficulty was the "no empty chair" requirement for public forums, as several candidates gave short or no notice of their non-participation, resulting in last-minute forum cancellations. On another front, the Health Care Committee worked to produce four brochures delineating current problems with health care delivery in the U.S. In January, the League co-sponsored a "community conversation" on the expansion of Medicaid in Indiana.

Brown County

After losing our local clinic and one of our three doctors, our League voted to study and develop a position on local health. We partnered with the local chapter of Hoosiers for Common Sense Health Plan who received a grant from IU to study the health needs of BC. With the study's release we hosted community forums. This partnership has brought together not only the medical community, but governmental and educational entities to address the health care needs of our community.

Elkhart

Our bus trip scheduled for 27 February to see the "Book of Mormon" in Chicago is almost sold out. We are looking forward to programs on water quality and Medicare.

Greater Lafayette

With elections over, Tipp. County has five state reps instead of three, and two state senators as usual. LWVGL has turned its attention to monitoring the 2013 General Assembly with our annual leg. coffee in Dec. and our leg. breakfast scheduled for Feb. 23. We will be paying close attention to bills surfacing related to more restrictive voter ID and limiting early voting. Planning for the future is upon us and we look forward to getting together with hot soup and bread and good conversation.

Greencastle

We held a LWV Holiday Dinner. Ann Newton, our PR chair, worked in New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy for Red Cross. Several of us hope attend the Legislative Day on Feb. 6 and we will begin program planning early in February.

Hamilton County

We experienced a lot of activity the last half of 2012. We registered voters at the Indiana State Fair and in the Judicial Center in Noblesville. Channel 13 invited us to join them in their "Decision 2012 On the Road." Four of our members set up our League stand and registered voters and we were televised live from the Monon Trail in Carmel. Mari Briggs attended the Zionsville gubernatorial debate as a timekeeper, and our League hosted a contentious forum for Fishers residents on a referendum question whether Fishers should become a city or reorganize as a town.

Howard County Area

LWV of Howard County Area had a nice holiday dinner in December. On January 19th, they participated in the Third House meeting with one senator and two representatives from their districts with taxes and money the big topic of discussion. On January 24th, a meeting was held to start a community discussion about gun control and school safety with a Kokomo's police department captain and a retired educator on the panel. This might be the first of several public meetings.

Indianapolis

We ended the year by co-sponsoring the Hoosier Environmental Council's 5th Annual Greening the Statehouse on December 5. We begin the new year by welcoming Debbie Asberry to our board! Debbie is fulfilling the remainder of Kendra Clauser's term and we thank both Debbie and Kendra for their service. The board and membership are also looking forward to seeing some traction this session on a mass transit bill currently in front of the General Assembly. We recognize this bill only impacts Marion and Hamilton Counties currently but thank other Leagues for their support.

Knox County

On January 9th, Lunch with the League was held with local architect, Andrew Myszak. He discussed the redevelopment plan for the Vincennes downtown school buildings and Adams Coliseum. A forum on education, sponsored by the LWV and Knox County Farm Bureau, was held on January 23rd with local school superintendents and Katrina Hall, Government Finance and Tax Specialist for Indiana Farm Bureau, discussing current legislation and school tax issues.

Montgomery County

This fall was very busy for the LWVMC. Partnering with the LWVIN and Wabash College, we hosted a Candidates Forum for the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction race, which was also broadcast live via the internet and available on YouTube afterwards. We also hosted a public meeting on Agriculture in Indiana and co-sponsored a public event celebrating the 40th anniversary of Title IX. We continued our popular Lunch with the League series and participated in the LWVIN Poll Monitoring project on Election Day.

Muncie-Delaware County

On November 10th, we had representatives from the Muncie Sanitary District inform us how their work is bringing Muncie into compliance with the 1972 Clean Water Act. Our annual Holiday Brunch on Dec. 8th was on Voter Suppression. Our Observer Corps has been busy observing the Yorktown Town Board, County Council and Commissioners, Muncie Sanitary Board, and Muncie School Board.



Check out the LWVIN website:

www.lwvin.org

In Memory of Madelyn Sundquist

(A longer version of this obituary was published in the Indianapolis Star on 1 January 2013.)

Madelyn Sundquist, a longtime Indianapolis resident and civic leader, died Saturday, 29 December 2012, of acute myeloid leukemia. She was 82 and the widow of Lyle E. Sundquist, who died in 2007.

Mrs. Sundquist had an abiding interest in civic affairs in her community and beyond. She was active in League of Women Voters, dating to then-Mayor Richard Lugar's campaign for "Unigov" in the late 1960s. In the fall of 2012, with her health failing, she made sure to cast an early absentee ballot. In addition to her work with the League, Mrs. Sundquist was active with the Indianapolis Propylaeum, Spay-Neuter Services of Indiana, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, and Epworth United Methodist Church. She supported a variety of civic and community organizations, including WFYI, ACLU of Indiana, and Planned Parenthood of Indiana.

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Sundquist was the daughter of the late William and Mary Schroeder. She is survived by her sons Eric Sundquist of Madison, Wisconsin, and Carl Sundquist of Fort Smith, Arkansas, as well as daughter-in-law Dorothy Sundquist of Madison and granddaughters Madelyn Sundquist of Madison and Haley Sundquist of Ft. Smith. Her memorial service was held on Monday 7 January 2013, at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Memorial contributions may be sent to the League of Women Voters of Indiana. LWVIN is grateful both for Madelyn's service and for the family's designation that the League receive gifts in her memory.

Annual Fund Drive

Development Committee, LWVIN



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, 5610 Crawfordsville Rd, Ste. 1500, Indianapolis, IN 46224.

- 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 **LWV Indiana Education Fund** (please write "**Zimmer Fund**" on the 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).



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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.

Submissions to *The Voter* can be sent to
Dee Naylor (dnaylor@lwvin.org)
Deadline for Next Submission: March 23, 2013

Editors: Dee Naylor and Carrie Sosbe

League of Women Voters of Indiana®
5610 Crawfordsville Rd, Ste. 1500
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