

THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

SEPTEMBER 2013

Calendar

October 12

Southern Regional Workshop
Clarksville, Indiana
See page 5

October 19

Northern Regional Workshop
West Lafayette, Indiana
See page 5

October 24

United Nations Day

November 2

State Board Meeting
LWVIN Office, Indianapolis

December 15

Bill of Rights Day

January 18

State Board Meeting
LWVIN Office, Indianapolis

February 15

Presidents Day
Indianapolis, Indiana



Check out the
LWVIN website:

www.lwvin.org

Volunteers Needed

LWVIN Board of Directors

We encourage volunteers to join and work on these committees:

- Lobby Corps
- Advocacy Committee
- Natural Resources Committee
- Committees to restudy State positions on: General Assistance, Tax System, and Local Government (emphasis on Township Government)

Volunteers



Needed

From Jeanette Neagu, Chair – IN Natural Resources Committee: “On June 10, 2013, the newly formed Natural Resources Committee met by phone. Members are from various parts of the state. The committee set an agenda to address water and land use concerns in Indiana. Water quality issues include maintenance of septic systems, combined sewer overflows, non-point source water pollution, the need for buffer zones between agriculture and water, and nitrate removal by sanitary districts. Land use concerns include confined animal feeding operations, wetlands protection, and oil pipelines. The committee will explore air quality issues and will be responded to as needed. Another concern was the possibility of the state developing a state Energy Plan. At the State Board meeting on June 23, the Board adopted the Combined Sewer Overflow PowerPoint program as a program of the Indiana LWV. The program is available to any League in the state. Please contact Jeanette to join the Natural Resources Committee. Jeanette Neagu, La Porte County LWV, jgvneagu@lwvin.org.

From Barb Anderson, Chair – Advocacy Committee: “Advocacy is one of the most visible tools in which to gather resources and people around a coalition of people that will increase their visibility and enhance their credibility. From its inception, the League of Women Voters has been known as an organization that embraces advocacy around political issues, women’s rights/citizens’ rights, education, social justice, and pertinent issues that affect the citizenry.

In that vein we will be forming a new Advocacy Committee which will be chaired by Barb Anderson. To date, we will be joined by the following people to work on designated issues:

- Linda and Bob Shanks (Bloomington-Monroe Co. LWV) – Education
- Erin Kelley (Indianapolis LWV) – Women’s Reproductive Rights
- Paulette Vandegriff (MAL member) - Children’s Welfare/Rights
- Barb Anderson (SCI LWV) – Social Issues and National Policy affecting Underserved Populations

Article Continued on Page 2



President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

Where to begin? These have been busy and exciting times! Since accepting the Presidency of LWVIN at the State Convention at the end of April, there has been a busy schedule. Not only does the State League have a new President, Susanne Gaudin - we also have a new Treasurer, Carrie Sosbe. To say the least – there's been a lot of "transition" happening! A huge 'thank you' goes to outgoing President, Karen Kay Leonard, and outgoing Treasurer, Lorraine Jensen for working diligently with Carrie and me to move through this transition period as smoothly as possible.

Carrie and I attended the LWVUS National Council in Leesburg, Virginia, mid-June. Council was four days at the National Conference Center filled with early morning to late evening meetings, workshops, and most important – networking with other League leaders from throughout the United States.

We will be reporting to you all in the next Voter on the "high points" of that Council.

You'll be seeing some changes in the coming weeks and months for LWVIN. We are looking to re-locate the State League office into downtown Indianapolis and hire part-time staff. The website will have a PayPal feature for donations and ease in paying for registration for upcoming events. The majority of our members will be receiving their *Voter* newsletter through e-mail distribution (some will continue to receive theirs through the USPS.) You'll start to see more visibility for the State League – starting with this year's booth at the State Fair. We'll be asking for more members from across the state to become more active in lobbying and advocacy (see the article "Volunteers Are Needed".) We'll be looking at forming committees on the State Board to research: publications – such as "How to Run for Office", "It's Time to Vote for Judges – A Voters Guide"...and more (we'll be looking for suggestions); bringing the League to a younger generation; increasing our partnerships with like-minded organizations; securing grants; fund raising; visibility in the upcoming election year; and growing our Leagues – just to mention a few.

I'm looking forward to the next two years of endless possibilities with great excitement and enthusiasm. As our new Advocacy Committee chair, Barb Anderson, has said to our board "Let's start rockin' Leaguers!"

Susanne

Volunteers Needed, Continued from Page 1

Representation from all parts of the State with input and action welcomed.

The committee will follow these areas of focus: legislative update/alert on an issue-by-issue basis; a weekly fax (email blast) on action by the committee to those interested in receiving; monthly meetings of the committee; ad hoc activities as needed; gathering the "troops" to have appearances at the state house, in town hall meetings, etc., to create a sense of presence and to increase visibility of the League and its membership. For more information, contact Barb Anderson banderson@lwvin.org.

Lobby Corps – is being formed under the guidance of Barb Anderson. Contact Barb for more information.

State position re-studies:

Barb Anderson to chair the restudy on General Assistance.

No chair at this time for restudy of Local Government – three volunteers signed up to participate.

No chair or volunteers at this time for Tax Study.

National Agriculture Study

In order for local Leagues to undertake the national agriculture study, the national committee has gathered background material for all Leaguers which can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-readings>. LWVUS has proposed that consensus questions will be sent out in fall of 2013 and local Leagues will have until April (tentative) to submit their responses. A more detailed timeline can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/content/about-agriculture-update-and-committee>.

Congratulations!



Brown County's Junior High School students were national champions in the "We the People" contest, taking place in Washington D.C. this past May.

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 as 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

State Fair 2013

LWVIN Board of Directors

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the state fair booth this year. We were able to registration 83 new voters, help 47 people with a name change, and 18 people took a registration form home with them. Besides this work, we were able to increase our visibility and get the word out there about our work!

For the state fair, the League of Women Voters of Indiana purchased a new LWV banner and we would like to make it available to your League for events. If you would like to use the banner, please contact Susanne Gaudin at sgaudin@lwvin.org.



Membership and Leadership Development Program

LWVIN Membership Chair, Gail Pebworth

Welcome to Pam Raider (Brown County) who has joined the MLD Coordinating Team! A Membership and Leadership Development training for the Bloomington-Monroe County League took place on Wednesday, August 28 and in Knox County in September.

The MLD program has helped local Leagues increase membership and develop leaders across the country. This past year the membership of the LWVUS increased for the first time in several decades!!

By 2015, ALL local Leagues should be engaged in the MLD program. Why not start now? Local Leagues interested in participating in the MLD program should contact LWVIN Coordinator Gail Pebworth at gpebworth@lwvin.org. Any local Leaguer who might like to join the Coordinating Team is invited to contact Gail as well.

What's Going On With *The Voter*?

Carrie Sosbe, Voter Co-Editor

The Board of Directors for the LWVIN has decided to take a step into the 21st century and try email newsletters. Those members for whom we have an email address, we will be sending monthly newsletters. We will also be sending event invitations and make registration available via PayPal (if you would prefer to use an online payment system). Those members for whom we do not have an email address or have opted to continue to receive paper newsletters, those newsletters will be distributed quarterly (as they were previously). We will also be sending an additional five copies of the newsletter to each local League President for membership recruitment purposes. The purpose of this change from paper to electronic newsletters was to provide you with more timely news from the state and to cut costs, as the paper newsletters are much more expensive to produce.

Because of the way the LWV database works, we may only have one email address for your household. If your spouse, child, friend, neighbor, anyone! wants to sign up to receive our monthly newsletters, they can send an email to csosbe@lwvin.org. Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested in League activities.



Local League Activities Around the State

Cass County

State Representative Don Lehe was the guest speaker at our May dinner meeting; 2013-14 programs were planned and the local Trustee Study was completed with consensus. Members registered voters at both the Cass County and Indiana State Fairs. Highlighting women's struggle for equal pay, members celebrated Equality Day with a showing of *Made in Dagenham*. Constitution Day was commemorated by viewing a DVD and with a member-led discussion. The group is working to complete their first Governmental Officials Guide.

Elkhart County

We are finalizing our program calendar for the year with the Enbridge pipeline and Common Core requirements among those planned. Local students enjoyed a school-sponsored history trip this summer assisted by local League funding; they will share their experience with us at our first meeting of the year.

Fort Wayne Area

The group will participate in National Voter Registration Day. We are partnering with the Workers' Project and the Northeast Indiana Central Labor for Observation Corps training to interest more people in observing local meetings such as the City Council. Book discussion groups were held in partnership with Wunderkammer and AAUW. Pay Equity Day was celebrated in conjunction with AAUW, YWCA, and the Women's Bureau. We celebrated Women's Equality Day by showing a documentary about Gloria Steinem at the YWCA along with partner, AAUW.

Follow LWVIN Activities Online

- Signup for our e-newsletter by sending an email to csosbe@lwvin.org
- Follow us on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/lwvindiana>
- Like us on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Indiana>
- Find information League information at: www.lwvin.org
- Sign up for regionals online at: www.lwvin.org

Spread the Word

Have an interesting and exciting local League event? You don't have to wait for the paper Voter to share your event with the League community. Email information about your event, along with pictures if you have them, to csosbe@lwvin.org and we will feature them on www.lwvin.org and our Facebook page.



LaPorte County

Lunch with League has been a true winner and the group will continue to sponsor these. In addition, we are testing various ways to reach voters. Earlier approaches to Voters Service have been very rewarding and we plan to build on that foundation.

Muncie-Delaware County

On the recommendation of our Educational Working Group, we are supporting a Muncie Community Schools referendum to fund busing. The Group has been gathering and disseminating information to the public. Our October meeting will focus on this issue. At the recommendation of our observer, we questioned the Muncie Sanitary Board's transparency when they didn't reveal that a new call center for delinquent payments was created/owned by the Board's attorney. MSD will now report monthly the cost of the center and payments received by MSD.

South Bend Area

At its annual meeting, LWVSBA awarded Lisa Plencner with the Maud Wood Park award recognizing service to the League and advancement of civic education. Officers for 2013-2014 are Geri Pawelski, president; Lisa Plencner, vice president; Elizabeth Bennion, 2nd vice president; Nancy Johnson, secretary; and Glenda Rae Hernandez, treasurer. New board member Sady Garcia joins Amanda Ceravolo, John Hagen, Marti Heline, Kelly Sanford, and Jill Tulchinsky, and Melanie Smith-Guillaume, nominating chair. We celebrated National Voter Registration Day with registration at Ivy Tech and will host our Fall Friend-Raiser October 16, when we will award our first annual Making Democracy Work Award.

2013 Regional Workshops Voter Registration and Redistricting: What's New for 2014

The League of Women Voters of Indiana invites you to join us at on October 12th in Clarksville or October 19th in West Lafayette for our annual Regional Workshops. The theme for the workshops is Voter Registration and Redistricting: What's New for 2014. We have lined up excellent speakers who will discuss the new voter registration form, redistricting in Indiana, and what the League can do to help the public rethink redistricting.

Southern Indiana -- *Saturday, October 12*

Jeffersonville Township Public Library, 1312 Eastern Blvd., Clarksville, Indiana

Northern Indiana -- *Saturday, October 19*

Morton Community Center, 222 N. Chauncy Ave., West Lafayette, Indiana

Time

Workshops will run from 11:00 – 3:00 EDT

Meals

Lunch will be provided

Cost

\$20, can be paid at the door (cash, credit card, or check) OR with Paypal online

Registration

- Required, register online at lwvin.org OR contact Sandy Grant, LWVIN Events Chair, seffnergrant@sbcglobal.net, 1229 Mulberry St., Kokomo 46901
- Deadline to register: for October 12th workshop is October 7th and October 19th workshop is October 14th

Speakers

- Christa Coffee, Tippecanoe County Clerk - "Changes to the VRG-7 Voter Registration Form"
- Barbara Bratcher, Clark County Clerk - "Changes to VFG-7 Voter Registration Form"
- Christina (Christy) Eurton, Floyd County Clerk - "Changes to VRG-7 Voter Registration Form"
- David Orentlicher, IU School of Law and former State representative - "Partisan Conflict, Polarization, and Gerrymandering"
- Prof. Kelsey Kaufmann, DePauw University - "Indiana Local Redistricting: A Failed Mandate"
- LWV of Indianapolis, Karen Kay Leonard, - "Rethinking Redistricting"

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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 deductible. 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
Carrie Sosbe (csosbe@lwvin.org)
Deadline for Next Submission: January 18, 2014

Editors: Barb Wellnitz and Carrie Sosbe

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