



League of Women Voters® of Indiana

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy

Co-Presidents' Notes June/July 2015

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Co-Presidents' Remarks

Dear LWV Leaders,

Co-President Lisa Plencner was incredibly active in June attending both the LWVUS Council meeting in Washington D.C. and The Democracy in Action conference in Minneapolis.

This year's Council focused on voting rights, redistricting reform, Vote 411, and training sessions on topics such as "Messaging for Impact." There is a great PowerPoint that goes along with that training session and you can access Council materials by clicking [here](#). Lisa was particularly impressed with the potential impact of Vote 411—read more below.

The LWVIN also received an invitation from The Brennan Center on Justice to attend a 2-day conference in Minneapolis focused on Midwest-centric strategies for tackling redistricting and voting rights reform. Lisa has already shared this information with our LWVIN Redistricting Reform advocate Debbie Asberry we'll all benefit greatly from Lisa's willingness to immerse herself in the work of League last month. Make sure to thank Lisa the next time you see her!

Board member Jeannette Neagu (Natural Resources advocate) also did some traveling on behalf of the LWVIN in June. Jeannette attended the LWV of Lake Michigan Region's quarterly meeting where the group worked on plans to expand educational programs as well as advocacy efforts. Among other issues, the LWV of Lake Michigan Region urges everyone to learn about the risks to freshwater resources associated with improper drug disposal methods (i.e., flushing old prescription meds down the toilet or sink.) Learn more [here](#).

Lastly, the LWVIN is deeply saddened to share the news that longtime League member [Tim Schilling](#) passed away on May 27. Our deepest sympathies go to Barbara and her family.

Sincerely,
Erin & Lisa

Who's Calling?

Communication between the LWVIN and local Leagues is paramount to our success as an organization. The state board is currently working to reinvigorate the Local League Liaison program so that it can make sure you are receiving the support you need from the LWVIN. Within the next month, you (local presidents) will receive a phone call from either Erin or Lisa to discuss your needs/hopes for the **Local League Liaison** program as well as the LWVIN's **PMP policy** (see below), your level of support & interest in the **Vote 411** program, upcoming **redistricting reform** and **95th anniversary** efforts, as well as what kind of training you might like to receive at the next **statewide council meeting** (April 2016).

PMP Process

The LWVIN's fiscal year ended on June 30 which means your League will soon receive PMP—per member payment—notices for fiscal year 2015-2016. A number of local LWV's still have outstanding PMPs due for 2014-2015, however. We are working to supply you with an explanation of the amount due. In the meantime, please share the following information with your treasurer to make sure they understand the PMP process

- ⇒ Your state-level PMP is determined on the basis of the January 31 LWVUS membership summary. In July, local Leagues receive a cover letter with the resulting assessment and a set of quarterly coupons.
- ⇒ A local League may use tax-deductible funds to cover up to 50% of its national PMP and 10% of its state PMP. Up to these limits (only), the local League may use either unrestricted LWVIEF funds, or donations dedicated to PMP, or a combination of these.
- ⇒ If using LWVIEF funds to satisfy PMP, the local League requests both state and national PMP disbursements using the Transfer of Funds form.

LWVIEF forms can be found under the "Member Resources" tab at www.lwvin.org and you can also learn more about [LWVUS PMP Process](#) online.

Redistricting Reform

From Debbie Asberry, LWVIN Vice President & Redistricting Reform Task Force Advocate:

"Local LWV's from across the state attended and testified in several committee meetings during the 2015 General Assembly on behalf of redistricting reform. We are thrilled to report that the General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act 1003. This legislation calls for an independent study committee on redistricting reform. We have made recommendations for lay appointments to this committee and have great hope that some of our recommended names will be appointed. LWVIN partnered with Common Cause to host a state wide seminar on redistricting reform on June 6 at the Indiana History Center. There were attendees from around the state, and LWVIN members were by far the majority of participants in the room. Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola (CA) Law School who is a nationally recognized expert on redistricting issues was the featured speaker. As a result of this seminar and the enthusiasm generated by the sixty plus attendees, we have officially launched a state wide effort to educate Hoosiers and advocate on behalf of redistricting reform. Our first important work is to be actively involved in the committee meetings that will occur once the appointments are made and the committee is created."

What can your League now do? Continue to communicate with your elected officials on the importance of redistricting reform and plan to attend a birthday party/rally in support of redistricting reform at the Statehouse on July 16—[Elbridge Gerry's](#) birthday!—at noon. We will hear from our state's leaders and collect signatures calling on the study committee to make sure all Hoosiers can make their voices heard in this process. Sign up [here](#).

Education Study Update—Concurrence Materials

The statewide education study is well underway and Committee Chair Karen Kay Leonard plans to

send out concurrence materials around July 15. Why is this process starting with a concurrence? LWVIN cannot act on an issue if it lacks a clear position. The concurrence statement articulates what is already *generally assumed* to be the orientation of LWVIN but not expressly stated.

Please be on the lookout for concurrence materials and share them with local membership as soon as they arrive in your inbox!

If you'd like to learn more about this study, please contact Karen Kay Leonard at kkbleonard@sbdglobal.net. If you'd just like to learn a little more on your own before all the study materials come out, please enjoy the attached excerpt from *The Second Machine Age* or pick up a copy of *The Teacher Wars* by Dana Goldstein.

LWVUS Studies

Did you know we have a couple LWVUV national studies sneaking up on us?

The **Money in Politics Review** will allow the LWVUS to update its campaign finance position so that it can speak to whether the financing of political campaigns is protected speech under the First Amendment. Readings and study materials are already out and consensus questions will be ready this fall. Learn more [here](#).

The LWVUS **Constitutional Amendment Committee** is conducting a consensus study on the process of amending the Constitution. A study summary and timeline (consensus reports are due **December 1st!**) can be found [online](#).

95th Anniversary

Save the date for Saturday, September 26! The LWVIN will host a 95th Anniversary celebration luncheon in Indianapolis at the historic Athenaeum building. We will honor life members, enjoy music, great food, and a speaker. Details forthcoming.

LWV of Indiana

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