



VOTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Simmons, President • Cindy Rogers, Vice President • Ellen Chinn, Treasurer • Susan Welsh, Secretary
Donna Cashdollar • Laurie Lafontaine • Aida Shotts • Kay Smith • Kay Snyder • Dreama VanCise • Sandra Whitson

• PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING •

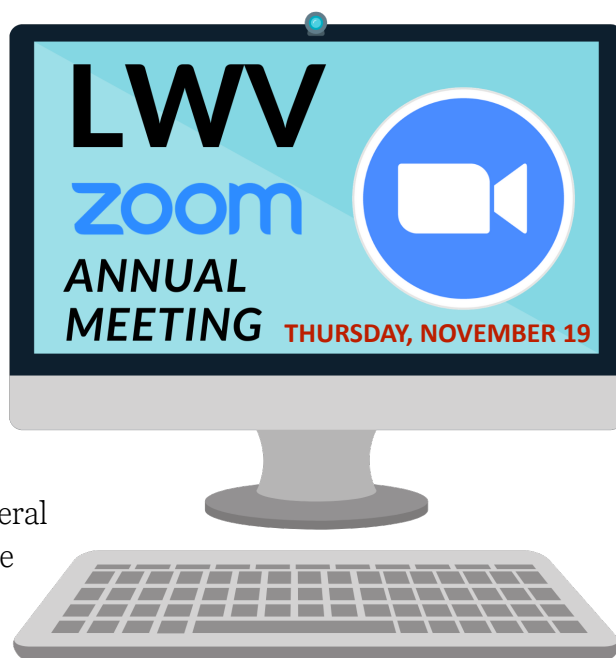
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020 • 7:00 P.M.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County on Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This is our League's first virtual meeting using the *Zoom* platform. A *Zoom* invitation will be emailed to all League members.

At the Annual Meeting, we will vote for the adoption of several agenda items. The successful adoption requires the participation and majority vote of 22 or more League members.

The adoption of our agenda items requires a quorum, a minimum number of LWVIC members to validate our proceedings. Our current membership is over 80 individuals, and our quorum is twenty-five percent of the membership. This means that we need 22 or more League members to participate in this brief *Zoom* meeting in order to adopt the budget and approve other agenda items. A majority vote shall constitute an election. Therefore, we need YOU to participate in our Annual Meeting on November 19, 2020.



AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Anne Simmons
- II. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Susan Welsh
 - A. The minutes of the LWVIC 2020 Annual Meeting need to be read and approved by the members of a committee.
 - B. The committee of readers for today's meeting minutes will be appointed at this time.

[Agenda continued on page 2.]

III. TREASURER'S REPORT: Ellen Chinn

- A. Monthly Report – This report will be accepted and filed for audit.
- B. Annual Audit Report – The audit for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was conducted by Ellen Chinn, Susan McClure, Sara Steelman, and Sandra Whitson. The books for the 2018-2019 fiscal year were audited and shown to be balanced.
- C. 2020-2021 Budget (Please refer to page 4)
 1. The proposed budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 has been approved by the board and is now presented to the membership for approval.
 2. The adoption of the 2020-2021 budget requires a majority vote of the voting members present.
 - a. Motion: "I move to adopt the 2020-2021 LWVIC budget as presented."
 - b. Second
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Vote

**IV. PROGRAM FOR 2020-2021:** Anne Simmons

- A. Recommended program from the LWVIC Board of Directors – Present and discuss
 1. Child Advocacy Committee on Education (CACE)
The CACE will continue to advocate for children's well-being, reflected in issues such as taxation and school funding, school safety, and public health. The committee will present family-oriented, public education events.
 2. Environmental Issues Committee
The committee will continue to study and educate the public about environmental sustainability, the effects of Marcellus Shale drilling, the impact of plastics on the environment, and climate change.
 3. Voter Services Committee and Fair Districts PA
The Voter Services Committee conducts voter registration events and sponsors candidates' forums. Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan, statewide coalition of organizations and individuals working to create a process for redistricting that is transparent, impartial, and fair.
- B. Non-recommended program items – Present and discuss
 - a. Members of the LWVIC may initiate a recommendation from the floor.
 - b. Motion: "I move to adopt _____ as part of the 2020-2021 LWVIC Program."
 - c. Second
 - d. [Discussion occurs with the recommended program items.]
- C. Vote to adopt the recommended program and non-recommended program items;
A majority vote of the voting members present is required to adopt the local program for the ensuing year.
 - a. Motion: "I move to adopt the 2020-2021 LWVIC program as presented."
 - b. Second
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Vote

V. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS: Beth Marshall and Anne Simmons**A. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three members, one of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Nominating Committee and one member, who shall not be a member of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The other member of the Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately following the Annual Meeting.

B. Report of the Nominating Committee

The members of the 2020 Nominating Committee are Beth Marshall, Ellen Ruddock, and Aida Shotts. On behalf of the Nominating Committee of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, we are pleased to announce the slate of candidates for officer and board director positions. These candidates may serve for a term of two years.

In addition, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member providing the consent of the nominee has been secured.

The election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one nominee for each office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

The slate of candidates for officer and board director positions are the following:

Ellen Chinn	Treasurer
Peggy Eyer	Board Director
Barbara Hauge	Board Director
Joyce Rizzo	Board Director
Cindy Rogers	Vice President
Kay Smith	Board Director
Sandra Whitson	Board Director

C. Vote: Anne Simmons

1. 2020-2021 Nominating Committee – nominations from the floor
 - a. Motion: “I move for a vote of the proposed candidates for membership on the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee.”
 - b. Second
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Vote
 - e. The appointment of the third member of the Nominating Committee will be declared at the next regular board meeting.
2. Slate of candidates proposed in the Nominating Committee Report and nominations from the floor
 - a. Motion: “I move for a vote of the slate of candidates for officer and board director positions as presented.”
 - b. Second
 - c. Discussion
 - d. Vote

VI. **ADJOURNMENT:** Anne Simmons

• **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY BUDGET** •
JULY 1, 2020 — JUNE 30, 2021

I. Income	
A. Dues 60 members @ \$55.00	\$3300.00
11 family memberships @ \$27.50	\$302.50
B. Contributions	\$1120.50
C. Projects/Other Sources	\$3500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$8223.00
II. EXPENDITURES	
A. General Administration	
1. President	\$20.00
2. Board Tools/Expenses	\$100.00
3. Administrative Committees	
a. Membership/Activities	\$100.00
b. Publicity	\$200.00
4. Operating Costs	
a. General Supplies	\$50.00
b. Insurance	\$225.00
c. Web Page	\$1000.00
B. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations	
1. State/National Conventions	\$1000.00
2. Workshops	\$100.00
3. Annual Meeting (Local)	\$200.00
4. Board Planning (Retreat)	\$20.00
C. Financial Support	
1. National \$32/member, \$16/family member	\$2128.00
2. State \$20/member, \$10/family member	\$1330.00
D. Program and Activities	
1. LWVIC Activities	\$100.00
2. Newsletter: <i>The Voter</i>	\$200.00
3. Action/Legislative Interviews	\$50.00
E. Committees	
1. Environmental Issues	\$200.00
2. Education	\$400.00
3. Voter Services	\$500.00
F. Miscellaneous	\$50.00
G. Awards: <i>Peggy Clark</i> (for 2 years)	\$200.00
H. Fundraising	\$50.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$8223.00

NEWS AND INFORMATION

VOTING IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

VOTING WEBSITES

votesPA.com

PENNSYLVANIA OFFICIAL VOTER INFORMATION WEBSITE

Use this website to check your voter registration status, register to vote, and apply for an absentee or mail-in ballot.

vote411.org

VOTE 411

The League of Women Voters Education Fund supports the Vote 411 website. Use this website to read about the positions held by candidates on issues of importance to voters. You can use this website to register to vote, regardless of which state you reside in.

lwv.org

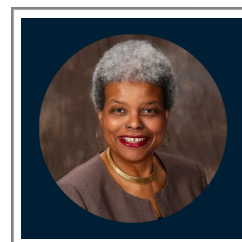
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES

The League of Women Voters of the United States official website.



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DR. DEBORAH TURNER

“It is important that we inform voters that we will not have official election results on Election Day due to many voters choosing to vote-by-mail because of the health threat COVID-19 poses. Please share **Democracy is Worth Waiting For**, written by Virginia Kase, which details why it will take states longer than usual to have election results.”



“DEMOCRACY IS WORTH WAITING FOR”

There are a lot of predictions about how the 2020 election will play out this November, but one thing is almost certain: we are not going to have results on election night.

And that’s okay.

With the increase in mail-in ballots in every state this year due to COVID-19 risks, immediate results are not possible on November 3. This means we are going to go to bed on election night, not knowing the results of the presidential election or the dozens of down-ballot races in every state. It may take a week, or even four weeks for final election results in multiple races—especially when we consider possible court challenges.

And we will be fine. This year, we are going to have to wait for democracy to run its course. We need to allow time for every vote to be counted accurately and completely. We need to allow time to exercise a core tenant of our democracy: every vote—and the voice it represents—counts.

**OUR DEMOCRACY IS WORTH
WAITING FOR.**

We also need to demand that candidates and the media wait as well. We are all familiar with the ‘too close to call’ races. Candidates should not be declaring victory with only the fraction of results or only in-person votes tallied. We the voters have the power to choose our elected representatives. We must demand that the politicians and the parties wait for the official result.

As American voters, we have become accustomed to learning our election outcomes on the same day we cast our ballot, or in some cases, even before the polls close and every vote has been counted.

[Continued on page 6.]

Not in this election. Quarantines and social distancing are spurring more demand for absentee and mail-in ballots across the country. This is a good thing. It signals that voters are not discouraged by an inability to be seen on Election Day but are seeking to be heard, and they are using another democratic, tested tool to do so: the U.S. Postal Service.

The U.S. Postal Service continuously plays a critical role in the electoral process every election cycle. Thousands of postal workers and mail carriers' sort and safely deliver ballots to polling locations. In every election, they help make our democracy work.

We trust them to do the job.

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night has kept one of the nation's oldest institutions from supporting our election process. For many, the postal service represents the only option to cast their ballots. Overseas service members, Americans in rural communities, and people with disabilities have relied on the US Postal Service to cast their ballots in elections for more than two centuries.

Despite recent structural and policy changes, the postal service has the experience and skill for this moment.

This year many states have eased their restrictions on mail-in voting, not requiring an excuse to vote absentee, and some states have even gone as far as to join the ranks of Washington, Oregon, Hawaii, and Colorado and provide all registered voters with a ballot in the mail.

But mail-in ballots require additional time for election officials to count and process, which flies in the face of the instant results we have come to expect on election night. And we need to remember, not every state counts ballots at the same time.

More than 20 states count mail-in ballots that arrive after November 3, as long as they are postmarked on or before Election Day. In Michigan, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania, counting mail-in ballots cannot legally begin until polls close on Election Day, despite how many people mail-in their ballot early. [Correction: In Pennsylvania, mail-in ballots can be counted starting at 7:00 a.m. on November 3rd, 2020.] And in even more states, voters can return their ballots on Election Day—either by mail, ballot drop box, or in-person at a polling location. Due to the surge in absentee, early, and mail-in voting, it is likely that results in those states will take a while to certify.

Here is where delayed results will happen, but it's a good thing.

Let's think this through. We want complete and accurate local and state election results. So, if we are waiting while ballots are counted—instead of rushing—we won't learn the election outcomes on November 3, but it means our system is working. It means that everyone's vote will be counted, and their voice heard.

Consider that national, local, and state-wide elections could be close. Allowing the amount of time needed to guard against voting discrepancies and fraud should be our priority. Slowing down the process will strengthen the integrity of our election results and the accuracy of our democratic system.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every facet of our lives, increasing anxiety and confusion for American voters who are already dealing with a lot of change and uncertainty. People should not have to choose between their health and their vote.

During these times, by submitting mail-in ballots—early, if you can—voters are being active stewards of the health of our communities as well as protecting our democracy. Let states take time to count every vote. We will know soon enough the winners of each race; and if we take our time, we know the results will be accurate.

We are facing new challenges to our election system, but our democracy already has the solutions needed to persevere and succeed. If we take our time, we can still ensure election rights, access, and accuracy for all voters.

After all, our democracy is worth the wait.

Virginia Kase

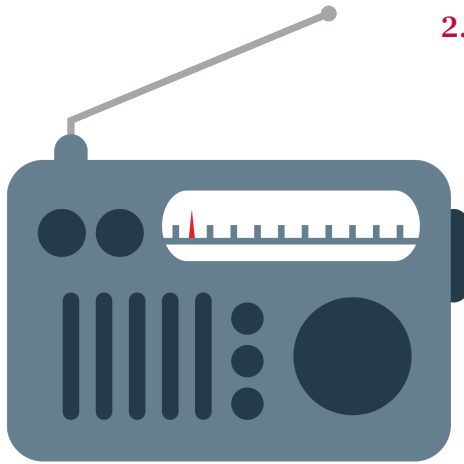
October 7, 2020

Note: Virginia Kase is the Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

RADIO INTERVIEWS: EDUCATE VOTERS

League members Cindy Rogers and Kay Smith have been working to educate voters and increase voter participation by conversing with Todd Marino on his radio show on Friday mornings. Their four-part series on voting was aired on May 15, July 24, September 11, and October 9, 2020.

All Indiana County citizens were encouraged to **“MAKE A PLAN FOR VOTING.”** As voters, we choose how, when, and where we vote. The multiple options for voting in 2020 include the following:



1. Vote in-person at your polling location.

2. Vote using an absentee or mail-in ballot.

- Mail your ballot using the United States Postal Service (USPS).
- Deliver your ballot to the Indiana County Courthouse (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). You may place your ballot in the drop box inside the front entrance of the courthouse or you may take your ballot to the voter registration office in the basement of the courthouse.
- If you do not mail or deliver your ballot, you can bring your absentee or mail-in ballot to your polling location and give your ballot to a poll worker or the Judge of Elections. Then, you will be given a 'regular' ballot. If you forget to bring your ballot to your polling location, request to vote using a provisional ballot. (Note: You have the right to vote. Please talk to the Judge of Elections assigned to your polling location and complete a provisional ballot.)

Most importantly, please encourage your friends and family members to **BE PATIENT**. There may be lines at your polling place. Relish the opportunity to vote in our democracy!

BOOKMARKS: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Approximately 2,360 “Making Democracy Work” bookmarks were distributed throughout Indiana County. Communities that received bookmarks included Blairsville, Indiana, New Florence, and Penn Run. Organizations assisting with bookmark distribution included the Indiana Free Library, Chevy Chase Community Center, Aging Services of Indiana, Justice Works Family of Services, IUP Department of Political Science, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Bookmarks were also delivered to political party offices. Lastly, many small business owners in Indiana County helped disseminate the bookmarks including coffee cafes, automobile repair service centers, bicycle shops, and numerous restaurants and pubs.

This wide distribution of “Making Democracy Work” bookmarks was possible because of the large number of people who volunteered to help including Eric Barker, Lillian Clemons, Tony DeLoreto, Peggy Eyer, JoAnne Ferraro, Linda Gwinn, Barbara Hauge, Dona Hegner, Sherene Hess, Carolyn Princes, Ann Rea, Joyce Rizzo, Cindy Rogers, Karen Ross, Ellen Ruddock, Gail Sechrist, Kay Snyder, Susan Welsh, Susan Wheatley, Sarah Wheeler, and Lori Woods.

Special thanks to Donna Cashdollar for designing the bookmarks.



This is your time!

Register to Vote:
VotesPA.com

Learn about Candidates:
Vote411.org

Making Democracy Work

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 19, 2020
Last day to register before the November election

October 27, 2020
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

November 3, 2020
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. They must receive ballots no later than 8:00 P.M.

November 3, 2020 General Election
Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

★★★

If you plan to mail in your vote, do not wait to the last minute to apply for a ballot.

Apply as soon as you are registered.
Fill out and mail your ballot at least 2 weeks before November 3 to be sure your vote will be received on time.

LETTERS: EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY!

Thank you League members, Vera Bonnet, Donna Cashdollar, Anne Simmons, Vicki Stelma, and Susan Welsh for writing letters about voting in Pennsylvania, and for submitting their letters for publication in *The Indiana Gazette*.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION:

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



In brief, the letters included information about Pennsylvania Act 77 of 2019 which provided options for Pennsylvania voters. Pennsylvanians may continue to vote in-person or if preferred, vote by mail. The passage of PA Act 77 made voting more accessible and secure by addressing voter registration deadlines, mail-in voting procedures, and new voting system purchases.



VOTER REGISTRATION EVENT: JUSTICE WORKS

League members Peggy Eyer, Cindy Rogers, Anne Simmons, Kay Smith, and Susan Welsh led a voter registration event for the young adults enrolled in the Independent Living program of the Justice Works Family of Services at Blue Spruce Park on July 24, 2020. In addition, our League members gave a presentation on the history of women's suffrage in the United States.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Please view "The Fight for the Right to Vote," the virtual presentation created by the League of Women Voters of Indiana County. The system of libraries in Cambria County asked our League to prepare a virtual presentation for their patrons to include information on the women's suffrage movement as well as voting in Pennsylvania. Our League's virtual presentation was debuted on August 25, 2020. The researchers and presenters of the virtual presentation included Donna Cashdollar, Peggy Eyer, Joyce Rizzo, Cindy Rogers, Anne Simmons, Kay Smith, and Susan Welsh.

The presentation can easily be accessed on the LWVIC website's homepage (indiana.palwv.org). Click the arrow to view our 35 minute virtual presentation.



WALK OF FAME: NORTHERN APPALACHIAN FOLK FESTIVAL INC.

The Northern Appalachian Folk Festival Inc. inducted six women into its “Walk of Fame” on Saturday, September 12, 2020. The folk festival honored six women in 2020 in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of women’s suffrage.

The six women inducted into the Walk of Fame are the following:

Peggy Clark	Environmentalism
Lucy Donnelly	Publisher of <i>The Indiana Gazette</i>
Rachel Levine, M.D.	Pennsylvania Secretary of Health
Marilyn McCusker	Champion of Women’s Rights
Abby Morris	Artist
Bernice Shiner Gera	First Female Professional Baseball Umpire



Cindy Rogers, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC), accepted the award certificate and placed the brick into the sidewalk on behalf of Peggy Clark and her family. Peggy Clark is a former member of the League of Women Voters. Each year the LWVIC grants the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards to an individual as well as an organization for their significant contributions to environmental stewardship in Indiana County. The Walk of Fame is located on the 500 block of Philadelphia Street.



RESIGNATIONS OF BOARD DIRECTORS

On behalf of the members of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, thank you to Board Directors Laurie LaFontaine and Dreama VanCise Watta for their many years of leadership and service. Laurie and Dreama submitted letters of resignation to the LWVIC Board of Directors.

Laurie LaFontaine served as a Board Director from 2013 to 2020. She was an active member of the Environmental Issues Committee and Budget Committee. Laurie will continue to chair the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award committee.

Dreama VanCise Watta served as a Board Director for many years and was the secretary of our League from 2017 to 2019. Dreama served in numerous leadership roles over the years including directing meetings with legislators and participating in League committee work including the nominating committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues are collected annually during the month of January. When we join the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC), all of us automatically become members of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and the League of Women Voters of the United States. Therefore, we support a critical presence in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. to influence public policy through advocacy. In addition, our dues support the League's mission to keep the public informed and provide non-partisan information to voters (website: vote411.org).

The "gifting of LWVIC membership" has come up in many discussions. Please contact Sandra Whitson, our membership chairperson, if you would like to provide a gift of membership to a friend or family member (swhitson8@comcast.net).

The annual dues for membership in the LWVIC are the following:

- * Individual members..... \$55.00
- * Family membership..... \$55.00 for 1st family member and \$27.50 for each additional family member
- * Student membership..... FREE

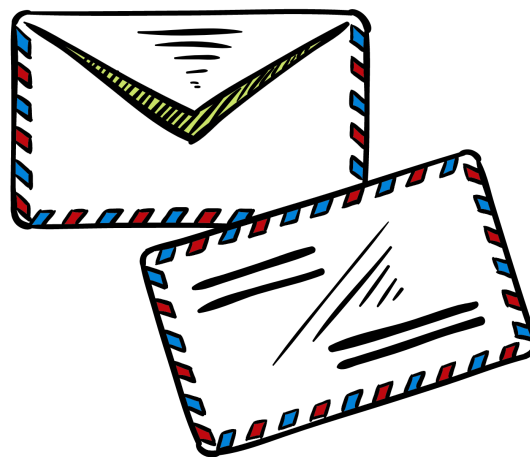
The \$55.00 is distributed as follows:

- * League of Women Voters of the United States.....\$32.00
- * League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.....\$20.00
- * League of Women Voters of Indiana County.....\$3.00

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please write checks to LWVIC and mail to:

Ellen Chinn, LWVIC Treasurer
156 Wine Avenue
Indiana, PA 15701



COMMUNICATIONS

CONTACT AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

- ★ Email: lwvindianacounty@gmail.com
- ★ Newsletter: alisonelizabethsimmons@gmail.com
- ★ Telephone: 724-465-2824
- ★ Website: indiana.palwv.org
- ★ Facebook: www.facebook.com/PowertoCitizens/