

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2013-14

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Potluck Dinner and Program to be Held January 27

Sustainable Agriculture: What Is It and Why Should We Care About It?

Agriculture plays an important role in the landscape, culture, and economy of Indiana County. Much of the county has prime agricultural land that supports productive farming, which is one important component of the county's economic vitality. Although there has been growth in the local food movement and community supported agriculture, too many people do not understand where food comes from.

Local farmer and Indiana County Conservation District Director Beth Marshall will moderate a panel discussion on programs and policies affecting local farmers. Panelists will address issues such as genetically modified crops, pesticide use, and industrial farming - all topics of a national series of conversations being held by LWV chapters across the nation.

Current Panelists:

Ms. Maggie Robertson, a Clarion County organic vegetable farmer and a LWV member who is on the League of Women Voters national study committee

Mr. Kim Miller, a beef farmer in Ligonier, PA, current state president of the PA Farmers Union, and past chair of the PA Association of Sustainable Agriculture

Mr. Bill Reeger, a large scale commodity farmer (corn and soybeans) in Indiana County

Date: Monday, January 27, 2014

Time: 5:30 p.m. for potluck dinner & short business meeting, 7:00 p.m. program

Place: White Township Fire Station, 1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana

Bring a dish to share. Tableware and beverages provided by LWVIC.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME! (RSVP if joining us for dinner; not necessary if attending program only)

RSVP by January 26 to Sandy Whitson at swhitson8@comcast.net or 724 463-7205.

It's Everyone's Job to Grow the League

Although it might not be the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the League of Women Voters, **a significant part of the mission of the League is recruiting members.** In fact, one of the most powerful ways we can create active and informed citizens is by encouraging individuals to become members of the League, the nation's most effective grassroots organization.

As you know, being a member of our local League is filled with benefits including opportunities to shape issues that are important to you, your family, and your community.

The most important strategy you can employ when working to grow the League is **"the ask."** Everyone (both men and women) is a prospective member, and many people are just waiting to be empowered; many people are just waiting to be asked. You will need to be persistent, however. In fact, you might need to ask ten people to join the League before one person does.

Wouldn't you like to share the benefits of League memberships with the people you know? All you need to do is ask.

Memberships (which are currently \$55) can be sent to Sandy Whitson at 402 Elm Street, Indiana, PA 15701, or you can contact her at swhitson8@comcast.net for more information.

Great Decisions 2014

Challenge yourself in the new year by learning about eight of today's most pressing global issues.

Participate in the Great Decisions Lecture/Discussion Series on Tuesday mornings from 9:30—11:30 a.m. beginning on February 4th.

Join with friends to hear expert speakers from IUP in the comfortable setting of St. Andrew's Village Community Room.

A briefing book on issues and questions is prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association (see www.fpa.org).

This year's eight topics include the following: **Defense Technology, Israel and the United States, Turkey's Challenges, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, China's Foreign Policy, U. S. Trade Policy, and Food and Climate.**

For further information and a registration brochure, contact IUP Continuing Education (724-357-2292).

Information and registration is available online at <http://www.iup.edu/continuing/>. Scroll down to the non credit courses category, and click on Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

LWVIC Seeking Nominations for Third Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is asking for nominations for the third annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award. The award will recognize local citizens, groups, or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment. It promotes citizens working within the system at the local level to make a change for a better world.

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect natural resources

This leadership can take a variety of forms including but not limited to the following:

- New or innovative technology to prevent degradation of our environment
- Activities that show a direct positive effect on our environmental resources
- Activities of notable stewardship of the environment
- Activities that reduce pollution in order to protect our water, air, and land
- Activities that reduce water pollution from both point and non-point sources
- Development of policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity

Nominations can be submitted by citizens or groups, or individuals can self-nominate.

The award will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Indiana County annual meeting in May. **The deadline for application submission is early April.** Contact Sherene Hess, president of the LWVIC to obtain an application. Address: 234 Geesey Rd., Indiana, PA 15701. Email: lwvic@verizon.net. Phone: 724-762-4162.

In addition, any member who is interested in serving on the committee for this award should contact Sherene Hess.

Consensus Meeting on Agriculture Policy to be Held in Spring

The LWVIC Agriculture Study Update committee will be holding a consensus meeting this spring in preparation for a revision to the LWVUS agriculture position.

Check out <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update> for a preview of consensus questions as well as background information about topics such as genetically modified organisms, water and soil management, farm management, and enforcement agencies and legislation. And keep your eyes tuned to the Voter for information as to the time and place of the consensus meeting.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-762-4162, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWWIC's activities.

Monday, January 20, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room, (1005 Oak Street, 2nd floor)

Monday, January 27, 5:30 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Program — Member Potluck Dinner and Meeting, White Township Fire Hall (1555 Indian Springs Road) (See details on page 1)

Tuesday, February 18— First day to circulate and file nomination petitions for candidates

Monday, April 21— Last day to register before the primary

Tuesday, May 13— Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

Tuesday, May 20— Primary election

June 6-10—LWVUS Convention, Dallas, Texas

Our Mission Statement

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 through education and advocacy.