

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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Volume XXX, Issue 3, March, 2012

SAVE THE DATE: LWVIC ANNUAL MEETING! Monday, May 21, 2012

Guest Speaker Roberta Winters (LWV Pennsylvania Vice President and Issues and Action Committee Chair) - Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station (1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)

Education Panel Discussion Held

On January 30th, LWVIC held a panel discussion entitled Education Alternatives and How They Affect Public Schools. The topic was especially timely because the use of non-traditional forms of education has risen dramatically. The panelists included Susan Richman, Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency; Dr. Stan Kesler, Seeds of Faith Christian Academy Principal; Jennifer Donohue, Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools Education Director; and Dr. Deborah Clawson, Indiana Area School District Superintendent.

Dr. Clawson began with her philosophy of inclusiveness, excellence and equity. Public education is obligated to provide these ideals to each child. Jennifer Donohue announced that 96,616 students in PA are enrolled in charter schools. According to Donohue, if charter schools made up a district, it would be the 2nd largest district in PA. Dr Kesler spoke next with an explanation that their focus has been on growth. Susan Richman stated that "most [homeschool] families come from a positive position" and "enjoy being with their kids."

Panelists were also asked to address the specific benefits and drawbacks of their respective education programs. Richman said that in the past, homeschoolers could not participate in public school sports. "The legislature has changed that which was a drawback before." The benefits are that unique learners have time to devote to developing their own particular strengths. From the Christian school perspective, classroom teacher student ratio stands at 1:12 and strong parent-teacher connections exist. Funding is tight, however, because there's no public money available. Also, they do not have the ability to serve those with profound learning needs. Donohue stated that charter schools offer a choice with an open enrollment policy. Parents have choices not dependent on geographic location; however, not all charter school leaders are ethical and one school has a 22 page application. She emphasized that they are working on these very issues of quality and accountability. Clawson wrapped up this topic by saying that "the simple answer is faculty" and that "teachers come well prepared, and they're the strength" of public schools. In the end, the question of how public schools are affected by alternative education was not answered in a conventional manner. It was clear that the destination is education. Families have the opportunity to choose from several different routes to get there.

LWVIC Garage Sale Fundraiser Coming Up

Our **annual fundraiser** is coming on **May 5**. **Save your donations. Ask friends and neighbors for their recyclable cast-offs.** We sell books, clothes, household items, plants, and furniture. **Drop offs** at 527 Shryock Avenue will be from 9—12 from April 30 through May 4. **Volunteers** are needed to set up from 9—12 during the week preceding the sale. Call Susan McClure, 724-463-8252, to sign up.

LWVIC PROPOSED BUDGET JULY 1, 2012—JUNE 30, 2013**I. Income**

A. Dues (58 members @ \$55)	\$ 3190.00
B. Contributions:	
1. Member	500.00
2. Non-Member	100.00
3. Projects/ Other Sources	1850.00
	120.00
Total Income:	\$5760.00

II Expenditures

A. General Administration	
1. President	\$ 20.00
2. Board Tools/Expenses	150.00
3. Administrative Committees	
a. Membership	30.00
b. Publicity	40.00
4. Operating Costs	
a. General Supplies	50.00
b. Insurance	125.00
c. Web Page	500.00
B. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations	
1. State/National conventions	350.00
2. Workshops	100.00
3. Annual Meetings (Local)	75.00
C. Financial Support	
1. National \$30/ member	1740.00
2. State \$22/member	1276.00
D. Program and Activities	
1. Publication Purchases	100.00
2. Bulletin	
a. Supplies	100.00
b. Postage	150.00
3. Voters Service	100.00
4. Action	
a. Legislative Interviews	25.00
b. Action	29.00
E. Committees	
1. Environmental Issues	100.00
2. Diversity	50.00
3. Education	100.00
4. Human Services Action	150.00
5. Library Issues	100.00
6. Other Programs	100.00
F. Misc/Scholarship	100.00
G. Other	100.00
Total Expenses:	\$5760.00

**A Note
From Our Treasurer**

At the January dinner meeting on the 30th, those attending very generously donated monies to the PALWV Phonathon. Each year the PA League conducts a fundraising event which usually involves board members from Leagues across the state calling their members to ask for donations to the State League. This helps to fund PALWV activities. For several years the local LWV has opted out of this activity and instead has "passed the hat," so to speak, at the January and May general meetings. At the January meeting, \$397 was collected and sent on to PALWV. Thank you to all of you who have donated in support of this activity.

Sandy Whitson, Treasurer

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteer with Evergreen Conservancy! Do you like to be outside? Do you have 1 to 3 hours once or twice a month that you could volunteer? For just a little bit of your time you will be helping keep our waterways clean and protecting one of our greatest resources. Evergreen Conservancy is installing data loggers that record water quality in Indiana County streams, and then volunteers are going out about twice a month to download the data. No experience is necessary. We will train you how to do it. Usually 2 or 3 people go out together. We can pair you up, or if there are two or three of you who want to volunteer together, we will show you what to do. To learn more visit www.evergreenconservancy. To volunteer call Cindy at 724-349-4333 or e-mail her at rogers944@comcast.net or info@evergreenconservancy.org.

Two Committees Forming Now

The LWVIC recently created the **Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award** which will recognize citizens, groups, or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment. The first award will be presented at our annual meeting on May 21. **A selection committee is needed to review applications.** If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Beth Marshall at nextlife@comcast.net or at 724-465-8974.

Wouldn't you like to be part of an effort to **empower the voters of tomorrow**? This fall, the LWVIC plans on visiting local high schools in an effort to encourage young people to register and vote and participate in our democracy. Please contact Aida Shotts (ashotts@windstream.net, 724-354-3482) or Karen Ross (ross.bert1@gmail.com, 724-349-0348) to be involved in this exciting initiative.

Nominate Your Favorite Family Friendly Business

The Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County and Indiana County LEARN are recognizing family friendly businesses in Indiana County. **LWVIC encourages you to nominate Valeski's Fourth Street Bi-Lo for this award.** Through the years, Valeski's Bi-Lo has supported women, children, and families throughout Indiana County through their generous donations and family friendly practices.

To nominate Valeski's Fourth Street Bi-Lo click on the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFBA>

Workshop to be Held

"Marcellus Shale and the Challenges of Intergovernmental Coordination"

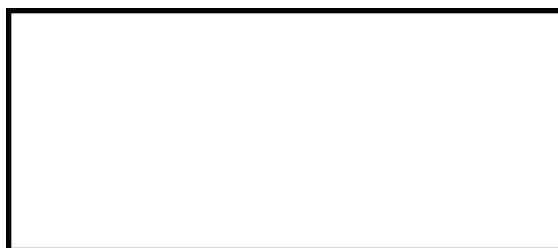
Wednesday, March 14, 2012 from 7 PM to 9 PM
Heinz History Center, 5th Floor, 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
This event is free and open to the public.

For more information and to register visit www.palwv.org/indiana

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh through a grant from the Colcom Foundation to the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizens' Education Fund's "Straight Scoop on Shale Drilling" initiative and in collaboration with the Local Government Academy and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's award-winning "Pipeline" shale drilling journalism project.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 5, 2012, Noon—Committee Meeting, Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award, Donatello's Restaurant (Indiana)

Monday, March 12, 2012, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Cindy Rogers' home (944 East Pike, Indiana)

Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 7:00 pm—Marcellus Shale and the Challenges of Intergovernmental Coordination Workshop, Heinz History Center (Pittsburgh)

Saturday, March 24, 2012, 10am-3pm—Family Fun Fest, Indiana Mall

Saturday, May 5, 2012—LWVIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana) **(May 12, Bag Sale)**

Monday, May 21, 2012—LWVIC Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker Roberta Winters (LWV Pennsylvania Vice President and Issues and Action Committee Chair), Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station (1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)

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 LWVIC's activities.

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.