

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Volume XXXIII, Issue 3, March/April, 2015

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2014-15

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Save the Date! LWVIC Annual Meeting May 18, 2015

For details, see the insert in this edition of the Voter.

Farewell From Sherene

Dear Friends,

It is with some sadness and much excitement that I resign my post as president of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County. As soon as I realized I would be running for Indiana County Commissioner last month, I took steps to separate from the board. The League holds a strict rule prohibiting directors and officers from representing the League while conducting partisan activity, especially in the case of running for office.

One does not spend nearly fourteen years leading such a respected and distinguished organization as the League without feeling a bit of

sorrow at the notion of parting with the extraordinary group of folks that comprises the board of directors. These women have been amazing, patient and loyal from the beginning. It took several invitations from the board of 1998 before I finally paid my dues to become an official member. Thankfully, they were persistent! I soon discovered that this was something that I wanted to put my energies into. I quickly engaged, taking on the secretary role in my first couple of years, only to find myself elected by the membership as president in 2001. During the several years that followed, my family doubled in number and we moved to a new home twice. I acquired new jobs, including a long stint with the LWV of PA's Water Resources Education Network. I grieved and came through the untimely loss of Mark. Through all of these changes and many more in my life, the people in the League have been an enduring and faithful presence. I have gained so much more from the League than I have given to it. It has been a wonderful journey.

Now, a new journey is before me. It is a voyage that I am ready to take because of my experience with the League. Every issue study, candidates night, voter registration drive, conference and workshop has made me remarkably informed and more confident. I am grateful for this training! I am also grateful to Vicki Stelma for taking on the presidency. It is a marvelous feeling to leave knowing that League matters are in such capable hands.

(Farewell continued on page 3)

League Participates in Annual Family Fun Fest

Contributed by Sandy Whitson

The annual Family Fun Fest was held on Saturday, March 21 at the Indiana Mall. The theme this year was "All Across America." The League represented the state of Michigan, and the children (and parents) who stopped by the display drew the shape of Michigan, (a mitten), using their closed hand as a pattern. Then they colored and labeled their maps. LWVIC pencils were distributed, and League literature was available. Tulips, which Michigan is known for, and the map of the state were displayed.

Thank you to the Indiana High School Key Club members and IUP students who volunteered. Many thanks also to League members Ellen Chinn, Pepita Jimenez-Jacobs, Susan McClure, Stacie Sawallish-Adkins, and Sandy Whitson who worked the event and to Diane Duntley for donating the beautiful potted tulips which decorated the tables.

Stormwater Management Workshop a Success

Contributed by Vera Bonnet

On March 13, the Stormwater Management Partnership held a daylong workshop at the KCAC where municipal officials, residents, and professionals from Indiana County and the surrounding areas were invited to learn about new approaches to handling stormwater. The Stormwater Partnership is a project of the Environmental Issues Committee of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County. Its mission is to reduce flooding and water damage to roads and buildings, as well as to preserve the quality of our most abundant natural resource.

The workshop was a success by any measure; in terms of attendance, 162 people signed up, ranging from municipal officials to the staff of various organizations, to residents and members of county-wide agencies. Speakers addressed all phases of the issue. The climatological cycle was ably presented by IUP's Dr. Kevin Patrick; the political ramifications of introducing new stormwater management practices were colorfully conveyed by frontline decision makers from Mt. Pleasant Boro, Etna Boro and Lititz, PA; the presentations were supplemented by two videos on rain gardens and on water barrels which were produced over the past six months with assistance from the IUP Communications Media Department. Attendees also had an opportunity to engage in hands-on team activities. Provided with large scale, full-color maps of their watersheds, residents were asked to measure the slopes of hillsides and to estimate the percentage of various types of land use within their watersheds. These skills gave them some basic tools for finding appropriate solutions to the specific problems in their areas.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of this workshop.

Voter Registration at Selma@IUP

Contributed by Karen Ross

Thank you to Carolyn Princes for inviting the LWVIC to be a part of Selma@IUP: A Teach-In/Panel Discussion, Connecting the Past to the Future. We had a table at both evening events and kept busy greeting attendees and handing out voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications. We also collected eight voter registrations. As always, it was a pleasure to interact with both IUP students and community members. As an added bonus, we viewed the award-winning movie *Selma*, which reaffirms the importance of the League's voting mission. A special thanks goes out to volunteers Peggy Eyer, Karen Ross, Dreama Van Cise-Watta, and Sandy Whitson who made the League's participation possible.

(Farewell continued from page 1)

My friends, thank you for the opportunity to be your leader these past many years. I hope that our paths will cross again soon. Until then, I leave you with these words:

Uphill

Christina Rossetti

Does the road wind uphill all the way?

Yes, to the very end.

Will the day's journey take the whole long day?

From morn to night, my friend.

But is there for the night a resting-place?

A roof for when the slow, dark hours begin.

May not the darkness hide it from my face?

You cannot miss that inn.

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?

Those who have gone before.

Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?

They will not keep you waiting at that door.

Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?

Of labour you shall find the sum.

Will there be beds for me and all who seek?

Yea, beds for all who come.

Garage Sale to be Held

The LWVIC Annual Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 am until 1:00 pm at 527 Shryock Avenue. The bag sale will be held at the same time on the following Saturday, May 9.

The garage will be open the week before the sale beginning Monday, April 27 from 9:00 am until noon for people to drop off items to be sold.

Volunteers are needed and should contact Susan McClure at 724-463-8252 with availability.

This is our League's major fundraiser of the year, so please continue to set aside items to donate and consider volunteering your time the days of the sales.

In memory of Barb Freund who passed away February 23 at her home in Fairfield, PA.

Barb was active in the League for 19 years. She served a term as president, and as a board member, she was involved in studying tax issues. She will be missed.

A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
of Indiana County,
Pennsylvania

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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Vicki Stelma know at 724-599-9225, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

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

Monday, April 20—Last day to register before the primary

Saturday, May 2, 8:00 am—1:00 pm —LWVIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana) **(May 9, Bag Sale)**

Tuesday, May 12—Last day to file for a civilian absentee ballot

Monday, May 18—LWVIC Annual Meeting (add info here) Park Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn)

Tuesday, May 19—Primary Election

June 5 — June 7—LWVPA Convention, Pittsburgh

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.

LWVIC Annual Meeting Information

Monday, May 18, Park Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn)

Dinner: 5:30 pm

Presentation of Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Award: 6:15 pm

Business Meeting and Election of Officers & Directors: 6:30 pm (see next page for budget details and slate of nominees)

Guest Speaker: 7:00 pm

Cost: \$22

Guests are welcome; RSVP if joining us for dinner;
No RSVP necessary if attending program only

RSVP by May 14 to Sandy Whitson

email to swhitson8@comcast.net; phone 724-463-7205; or with payment (check made out to LWVIC) to 402 Elm Street, Indiana, PA 15701 or pay at the door

Following is the local program which will be voted on at the business meeting:

The **Voter Services Committee** will publish Voters' Guides, coordinate nonpartisan voter registration events, hold candidates nights, and provide membership updates on legislation related to voting and elections.

The **Environmental Issues Committee** will continue to monitor new legislation and studies on the effects of drilling for unconventional natural gas in the region, with special emphasis on health effects, both to individuals living near drilling operations and to overall community health. The committee will also continue outreach and education about the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan's Land Use and Natural Resources sections and will work with the County and other organizations to implement recommendations of the Plan.

The **Child Advocacy Committee** will monitor emerging issues, activities, and policies related to the welfare of children in Indiana County, especially early childhood education. This committee will advocate for public policy based on established positions and will promote annual events designed to educate and improve the quality of life for children.

The **Civic Participation Committee** will continue working to increase diversity in elected and appointed officials and raise awareness of the duties of elected officials to those considering public service.

The **Observer Corps Committee** will encourage members to attend public meetings to let officials know that someone is watching and to ensure that government agencies are fulfilling their responsibility to be transparent and accountable to the citizenry.

Additional program items can be suggested from the floor.

**League of Women Voters of Indiana County Budget
July 1, 2015 — June 30, 2016**

I. INCOME

A. Dues (59members @ \$55)	\$ 3245.00
3 family memberships (6 members)	225.00
 B. Contributions	
1. Member	400.00
2. Non-Member	300.00
C. Projects/ Other Sources	2000.00
D. Other Sales	100.00

E. Other income

TOTAL INCOME **\$7145.00**

II. EXPENDITURES

A. General Administration	
1. President	\$ 20.00
2. Board Tools/Expenses	100.00
3. Administrative Committees	
a. Membership/Activities	150.00
b. Publicity/External Communications	200.00
4. Operating Costs	
a. General Supplies	50.00
b. Insurance	140.00
c. Web Page	350.00
B. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations	
1. State/National Conventions	750.00
2. Workshops	100.00
3. Annual Meetings (Local)	500.00
4. Board Planning	100.00
C. Financial Support	
1. National \$31/ member	2015.00
2. State \$20/member	1300.00
D. Program and Activities	
1. Publication Purchases	100.00
2. Bulletin	
a. Supplies	100.00
b. Postage	250.00
3. Voters Service	100.00
4. Action	
a. Legislative Interviews	30.00
b. Action	40.00
E. Committees	
1. Environmental Issues	200.00
2. Education	100.00
3. Human Services Action	150.00
4. Other Programs	50.00
F. Misc	50.00
G. Awards	100.00
H. Fundraising	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$7145.00**

**Report from the
2015 Nominating
Committee**

The slate of nominees for two year terms beginning July 1, 2015:

President: Vicki Stelma
Secretary: Stacie Sawallish-Adkins
Board Members: Carmy Carranza, Ellen Chinn, Aida Shotts, Kay Snyder

The slate of nominees (to fill unexpired terms) for one year terms beginning July 1, 2015:

Vice President: Cindy Rogers

The slate of nominees to fill unexpired terms: Laurie LaFontaine

2016 Nominating Committee: Olga Platt, Karen Ross

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor.

Attention LWWIC members—If you are interested in becoming a board member or running for an officer position, please contact the nominating committee (Beth Marshall, Stacie Sawallish-Adkins, Dawn Seagren). Serving on the board is a rewarding experience and a great way to contribute to the creation of a fair, vibrant, and strong community. League is an ever present and trusted source of nonbiased, highly researched information and an organization that brings civility and respect to the political process. Help us keep it strong and effective.