



# VOTER

## Board of Directors

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

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Saturday, January 18, 2020**

Program - Dr. MLK, Jr. Celebration

**Monday, January 27, 2020**

Meeting - Women's History Coalition

**Saturday, February 1, 2020**

Last day to RSVP to LWV Luncheon

**Sunday, February 2, 2020**

Performance - "A Suffragist Soirée"

**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

Legislative Interview

**Saturday, February 15, 2020**

LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Luncheon

**Saturday, February 29, 2020**

Family Fun Fest, Indiana Mall

**Wednesday, March 18, 2020**

Women's History Month Celebration, IUP

**Date TBD - March 2020**

Budget Summit - PA Budget & Policy Center

**Tuesday, April 28, 2020**

Election - 2020 PA Presidential Primary

**Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3, 2020**

LWVIC Annual Garage Sale

**Date TBD - May 2020**

LWVIC Annual Dinner Meeting

**Saturday, June 6, 2020**

AAUW Bus Trip to Seneca Falls, NY

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020**

19<sup>th</sup> Amendment Community Celebration

## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of League of Women Voters

Please join us at 12:00 noon on February 15 to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the League of Women Voters (LWV). The LWV was formed six months before the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution with the goal of preparing newly enfranchised women to exercise their right to vote as informed and educated citizens. The LWV continues the mission of encouraging informed participation in government, increasing the understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

The highlight of our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration will be a presentation about the role of local Indiana County women in the women's suffrage movement titled, "The 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Suffrage, and Indiana County Women." Katie Gaudreau, Historian and board member of the Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, will give a living history presentation depicting how the women of Indiana County were involved in fighting for equal rights during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From 1850 to 1900, women living in Indiana County used their voices and influence to fight for the right to vote. Although these women fought for their civil rights long before 1920, the year the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, the marches and protests that occurred in the later years of 1900 to 1920 often overshadowed the earlier efforts of our local Indiana County women.

## Invitation: LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

### Saturday, February 15, 2020

- Saint Andrew's Village, 1155 Indiana Springs Road, Indiana
- 12:00 noon – Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. – Presentation:  
"The 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Suffrage, and Indiana County Women"
- Luncheon: \$20.00/person
- Please RSVP by: Saturday, February 1, 2020
- Write checks to: LWVIC
- Mail to: Ellen Chinn, LWVIC Treasurer  
156 Wine Avenue  
Indiana, PA 15701
- Chairpersons: Kay Smith (kaybsmith06@gmail.com) and  
Aida Shotts (abshotts@gmail.com)

## Communications

Email: lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

Newsletter: alisonelizabethsimmons@gmail.com

Telephone: 724-465-2824 • Website: indiana.palwv.org

## PLANNING MEETING - WOMEN'S HISTORY COALITION

All members of the Indiana community are welcome to join the Women's History Coalition of Indiana County on January 27, 2020 to plan community-wide events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. We are planning events from January 2020 through September 2020.

Indiana County groups that have been invited to join the coalition and participate in the planning of events include the following: American Association of University Women, Business and Professional Women's Club, Federation of Democratic Women, Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County, Indiana Borough Council, Indiana County Commissioners, Indiana County Republican Committee, Indiana Free Library, Indiana University of Pennsylvania: Women's and Gender Studies, Department of Political Science, IUP Libraries, League of Women Voters, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Northern Appalachian Folk Festival, and Women's Club of IUP.

Please extend this invitation to all other organizations in Indiana County. Everyone is welcome to join the Women's History Coalition of Indiana County and help plan community-wide events.

### COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETING: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE EVENTS

Monday, January 27, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Artist Hand Gallery and Espresso Bar, 732 Philadelphia Street, Indiana

Hosted by the Women's History Coalition of Indiana County

Contact: Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)



On June 24, 2019, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Legislature voting to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was commemorated by Indiana County women.



Indiana County women led by AAUW marched as suffragists in the October 2019 IUP Homecoming Parade. The Women's History Coalition of Indiana County is planning woman's suffrage events for 2020.

## COMMITTEES

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County has several committees focusing on issues of importance to our communities. It is at the committee-level that League members learn, lead and engage with other citizens to influence public policies of local and national importance. You are welcome to join a committee by contacting the chair.

- Environmental Issues Committee – Chair: Vera Bonnet (verabonnet46@gmail.com)
- Child Advocacy Committee on Education – Chair: Sue Welsh (sbwelsh48@gmail.com)
- Voter Services Committee – Chair: Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)
- Fair Districts PA – Indiana County Contacts: Sid Reger and Stanley Chepaitis (fdpa.indiana@gmail.com) and LWVIC Contact: Vicki Stelma (vstelma@hotmail.com)

## Environmental Issues Committee

This committee studies and educates the public about environmental sustainability, the effects of Marcellus Shale drilling, and the impact of plastics on the environment, among other issues.

### Shale and Public Health Conference

Environmental Issues Committee members attended the Seventh Annual Shale and Public Health Conference hosted by the LWV of Pennsylvania at the University of Pittsburgh on November 19, 2019. Displayed at the conference was the LWVPA publication, "Shale Extraction and Public Health: A Resource Guide" which was written and edited by Vera Bonnet, Chair of our LWVIC Environmental Issues Committee. Copies of this publication are still available from the LWVIC ([lwvindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)).

### The Bench Project: Boy Scout recycling project

The members of our League's Environmental Issues Committee supported the efforts of Silas Schiera to collect and recycle plastic. Silas Schiera is a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 1011. He developed the recycling project to earn his Eagle Scout Award, the highest attainable rank in the Boy Scouts of America.



The goal of the "Bench Project" was to re-purpose collected plastics into a poly-lumber outdoor bench. Silas successfully collected five hundred pounds of plastic film from July 2019 to November 2019. He will receive a composite plastic bench from the Trex Company, a composite decking company, and install his plastic bench at Indiana Senior High School.

Although Silas Schiera completed his "Bench Project", he is working with the Horace Mann Elementary School PTA, the Evergreen Conservancy, and the League of Women Voters of Indiana County to continue the collection and recycling of plastics to obtain more plastic benches. Additional information about Silas Schiera and his Eagle Scout Project will be published on the LWVIC website later this year ([indiana.palwv.org](http://indiana.palwv.org)).

### Documentary Film: "Bag It: Is your life too plastic?"

The Environmental Issues Committee hosted the public viewing of the documentary film, "Bag It: Is your life too plastic?" on November 23, 2019 at the Philadelphia Street Playhouse. Community members who shared their research, insights, and projects included IUP students and professors and Boy Scout Silas Schiera.

### Collection Site for Plastics

A plastic collection site is located inside the entrance of the Indiana Borough Municipal Building, 80 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Indiana. The plastic bags must be clean and dry. The types of plastic bags that may be recycled include the following: grocery bags, bread bags, water case and soft drink case overwraps, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc and other re-closable bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags, and cereal bags. Special thanks to Silas Schiera for providing this list.



### Fabric recycled: Reusable shopping bags

Please donate fabric, used clothing, and old sheets to Devon Ruby. She will make reusable shopping bags from fabric and distribute these FREE bags at local farmers markets.

For additional information, please contact Molly Sarver ([sustainableindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:sustainableindianacounty@gmail.com)) or Devon Ruby ([rubydevon12@gmail.com](mailto:rubydevon12@gmail.com)).

### Tour of Indiana Recycling Center

A tour of the Indiana County Recycling Center was held on January 11, 2020. The tour included a discussion about the overall recycling efforts in Indiana County as well as information about the types of materials that the recycling center processes. The recycling center processes items provided through their 24-hour drop off program (including glass, cardboard, office paper, magazines, and yard waste) and materials picked up through the curbside recycling program. Additional information about the Indiana County Recycling Center will be published on the LWVIC's website ([indiana.palwv.org](http://indiana.palwv.org)).





### Child Advocacy Committee on Education



The Child Advocacy Committee on Education (CACE) advocates for children's well-being, reflected in issues such as taxation and school funding, school safety, and public health. The committee presents family-oriented, public education events.

The focus this year for the CACE has been our children's safety. The committee researched how safety issues are being addressed in the schools as well as outside of schools. In brief, the topics included the effect of the legislation, PA Act 44 of 2018 including the Safe2Say Program, how to address mental health and wellness holistically, the impact of gun violence within and beyond the school setting, and how citizens may advocate to improve the safety of our children.

Committee members met with the Superintendents of Schools and the administrative teams of three school districts, Apollo-Ridge, Penns-Manor, and Indiana Area. At these informative and welcoming meetings, the following was discussed: 1. Implementation of Pennsylvania Act 44 of 2018: School Safety and Security; 2. Students' academic, social, and

emotional needs; and 3. Additional financial support necessary to address students' mental health issues.

Following the meetings with local school district administrators, the committee members led a public presentation on November 19, 2019 titled, "Our Children's Safety, Guns and Mental Health: Research and Practice."

### Voter Services Committee

League volunteers registered voters at five events during the fall 2019 including the following: 1. Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Community Involvement Fair; 2. Northern Appalachian Folk Festival; 3. Indiana County Farmers Market; 4. Indiana Free Library and local coffee cafes in coordination with National Voter Registration Day; and 5. United States Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony hosted by IUP.

You may obtain information about candidates on the VOTE411 website ([vote411.org](http://vote411.org)). This election information is provided by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. The 2020 Presidential Primary Election in Pennsylvania is on Tuesday, April 28, 2020.





## Legislative Interviews

Members of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) are invited to participate in interviews with our Indiana County legislators during the month of February 2020. Our League's Legislative Interviews will be led by Aida Shotts, Legislative Interview Coordinator. The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) provided a series of questions that focus on the priority issues for this legislative session. Prior to the scheduled meetings, we furnish the interview questions to our legislators. The interviews are an important part of the League's work. The LWVIC shares what we learn through the interviews with the LWVPA. The interviews afford us the opportunity to educate our legislators about issues, identify legislation we intend to support or oppose, and they assist us in building and maintaining relationships with our local legislators.

## Fair Districts PA (FDPA)

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. Our local Indiana FDPA team is seeking interested individuals to help with educating the public, writing letters, and visiting elected officials. LWVIC Contact: Vicki Stelma (vstelma@hotmail.com).

# MEMBERSHIP

## League Membership Dues: Collection in January

The process for the collection of membership dues has changed. Membership dues will be collected annually during the month of January. (This year we will collect membership dues through February 15, 2020 to allow our members to pay their membership dues at our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration!) 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 annual dues for membership in the LWVIC are the following:

Individual members ..... \$55.00

Family membership ..... \$55.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> family member and \$27.50 for each additional family member

Student membership ..... FREE

Please contact Sandy Whitson, our membership chairperson, if you would like to provide a gift of membership to a friend or family member (swhitson8@comcast.net).

## MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

Please write checks to LWVIC and mail to:

Ellen Chinn, LWVIC Treasurer

156 Wine Avenue

Indiana, PA 15701

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Donna Cashdollar and Linda Gwinn were reinstated to the LWVIC Board of Directors at the November 18, 2019 board meeting.
- The LWVIC received a "Solar Champion Award" in November 2019 from Solar United Neighbors in recognition for our bold leadership in guiding Indiana County towards a sustainable, solar-powered future.
- Special thanks to all LWVIC members who donated socks to the NAACP "Socks for All" Holiday Drive in December 2019.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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Listed below are programs and events hosted by the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) and programs co-hosted with other community organizations as well as events that you may find of interest. Most of the programs listed below are free and open to the public. Costs for meals will be clearly indicated.

### **Presentation – "Code Red: Reimagining Destiny and a New Frontier"**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Indiana County NAACP: Program and Fellowship Luncheon

Speaker: Ms. Kristin Shymoniak, Washington D.C. Mayor's Commission on African American Affairs and IUP Alumna

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church, 50 South 7th Street, Indiana

Contact: Carolyn Princes (didw58@hotmail.com)

### **Meeting – Women's History Coalition of Indiana County**

Community Planning Meeting: Women's Suffrage Events

Everyone is welcome to help in the planning of women's suffrage events.

Monday, January 27, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Artist Hand Gallery and Espresso Bar, 732 Philadelphia Street, Indiana

Contact: Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)

### **Performance – "A Suffragist Soirée: Celebrating 100 Years of Voting Rights through Music & Drama"**

American Association of University Women and Indiana University of PA

Sunday, February 2, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Gorell Recital Hall, Indiana University of PA

"Suffragist Tea" Reception, following performance, Blue Room, Sutton Hall

Contact: Susan Wheatley (wheatleyse@gmail.com)

### **Legislative Interview – Pennsylvania Senator Joe Pittman**

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast at Eat'n Park Restaurant (Back Room), 2675 Oakland Avenue, Indiana

Please RSVP to: Aida Shotts (abshotts@gmail.com)

### **LWV 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration and Presentation – "The 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Suffrage, and Indiana County Women"**

Historian: Katie Gaudreau, Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County

Saturday, February 15, 2020, Lunch at 12:00 noon; Presentation at 1:00 p.m.

Saint Andrew's Village, 1155 Indiana Springs Road, Indiana

Luncheon: \$20.00/person; RSVP: Saturday, February 1, 2020; Write checks to: LWVIC; Mail to: Ellen Chinn,

LWVIC Treasurer, 156 Wine Avenue, Indiana, PA 15701

Contacts: Kay Smith (kaybsmith06@gmail.com) and Aida Shotts (abshotts@gmail.com)

### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual – Family Fun Fest**

Children's Advisory Commission of Indiana County

Saturday, February 29, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Indiana Mall, 2334 Oakland Avenue

Contact: Sue Welsh (sbwelsh48@gmail.com)

### **Celebration of 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution**

Women's History Coalition of Indiana County

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, Time TBD

Contact: Anne Simmons (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)