

LWV

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY

FALL 2021

League of Women Voters Announces Candidates Night

Tuesday, October 26, 2021 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ Indiana Area Senior High School



Candidates Night is a free, public program and all community members are encouraged to participate. The candidates for two offices, the Indiana County Office of Register of Wills, Recorder of Deeds, and Clerk of Orphan's Court (i.e., Register and Recorder) and the Judge of Common Pleas Court of Indiana County (i.e., Judge) have been invited to participate in Candidates Night. This nonpartisan forum allows candidates for office to respond to questions posed by audience members. The event will be broadcast over radio station 1160 WCCS. The League of Women Voters of Indiana County has been leading nonpartisan voter registration and education efforts in Indiana County since 1973.

Anne Simmons and Aida Shotts planning Candidates Night 2021

Voter Services Committee ~ Voter Registration Events

Saturday, September 11, 2021

Northern Appalachian Folk Festival

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

National Voter Registration Day

Friday, October 22, 2021

United States Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony

Please volunteer to help at voter registration events. The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will provide Pennsylvania Voter Registration Applications as well as LWVIC book-marks and cards for distribution. League members are expected to remain nonpartisan, and not represent a candidate or party.



League members registered voters at the Northern Appalachian Folk Festival and at IUP on National Voter Registration Day. Thanks to members and friends who helped with these events: Eric Barker, Stan Chepaitis, Ellen Chinn, Peggy Eyer, Barb Hauge, River Hone, Maya Nocco, Misty Nocco, Lizanne Porter, Sid Reger, Joyce Rizzo, Cindy Rogers, Anne Simmons, Tom Simmons, Vicki Stelma, and Sue Welsh.

LWVIC Offers Workshop Series on Voting Laws

Monday, September 13, 2021

Legislative Update: United States

Monday, September 27, 2021

Legislative Update: Pennsylvania

Monday, October 18, 2021

Legislative Update: Indiana County

NEW VOTING LAWS:

Their Impact on Voting Access

“Informed citizens are our democracy’s best defense.” (Brennan Center for Justice)

Please join us to discuss how new voting laws impact voting access. The workshops will be led by members of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

These laws are expansive with some laws restricting access to the vote and other laws expanding access to the vote. This voting legislation influences mail-in voting and early voting, voter ID requirements, voter list maintenance, mail ballot drop boxes, polling place availability, and the number of voters per precinct as well as other provisions to restrict or discriminate against voters.

Please refer to the resources provided in each Legislative Update to learn about the research of the Brennan Center for Justice, the position of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania on HB1300 and SB735, and the advocacy for election reform led by the Pennsylvania County Commissioners Association.

All events hosted by the LWVIC are free and open to the public. For additional information, please send an email inquiry to:
lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

“... the promise of the right to vote depends increasingly on where Americans happen to live.” (Brennan Center for Justice)



Sue Welsh and Joyce Rizzo presented on September 13.

Legislative Update: United States

Presenters: Joyce Rizzo and Susan Welsh,
Board Directors, LWVIC

Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

In-person workshop: 19 Erica Drive, Indiana, PA
Topic: State Legislatures across the United States – New voting laws

Resources: www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-july-2021#.YSVusL8PxHY.link

Legislative Update: Pennsylvania

Presenter: Susan Gobreski, Director of
Government Policy, LWV of Pennsylvania
Monday, September 27, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Zoom workshop: Email to request Zoom link:
lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

Topic: Pennsylvania HB1300 and SB735

Resource: www.palwv.org/news/statement-from-the-league-of-women-voters-of-pa-on-sb735-and-hb1300

Resource: www.palwv.org/news/lwvpa-response-to-election-code-bill-hb-1300

Legislative Update: Indiana County

Presenter: Sherene Hess, Past President, LWVIC
and Elections Reform Chair, PA County Commissioners Association

Monday, October 18, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.

Zoom workshop: Email to request Zoom link:
lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

Topic: Election reform

Resource: tinyurl.com/ryessxu9

Resource: tinyurl.com/3z6tc3zc

LWVIC Members Attend Climate Science Workshop

Ellen Chinn, Lizanne Porter, and Cindy Rogers attended the Climate Change Workshop hosted by scientists and educators from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History for the Laurel Highlands Climate and Rural Systems Partnership. This all-day workshop was held at the Powdermill Nature Reserve on September 17, 2021. In this participatory workshop, scientists and educators discussed the latest research in climate change communication and climate science.



Climate Science Workshop participants

Appointment to Indiana County Solid Waste Authority

League member Don Lancaster was appointed to serve as a delegate on the Indiana County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Don Lancaster's responsibilities include evaluating the County's recycling programs and waste disposal needs. The previous LWVIC member of the Indiana County Solid Waste Advisory Committee was Lori Rittle.



Environmental Issues Committee members Vera Bonnet, Cindy Rogers, Don Lancaster, and Faye Bradwick visited the Indiana County Recycling Center.

Appointments to LWVPA Statewide Committees

Susan Boser, League of Women Voters of Indiana County member, has been appointed to serve on two statewide committees, Government Policy and Social Policy.

The Government Policy Committee of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania will focus on legislative and election issues affecting our state and citizens. The Social Policy Committee will study social and political issues affecting Pennsylvania citizens. In both roles, Susan Boser will work with her statewide colleagues on policy research, writing, and strategy formation.

Cindy Rogers, Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County, has been appointed to serve on the Environmental Policy Committee of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. The members of this statewide committee will research and circulate information on the critical environmental issues affecting Pennsylvanians.

League Influence on Public Policy Begins in Committees

Our League 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, state and national importance. You are welcome to join a committee by contacting the chair.

Child Advocacy Committee on Education:

Sue Welsh (sbwelsh48@gmail.com)

Fair Districts PA:

Vicki Stelma (vstelma@hotmail.com)

Environmental Issues Committee:

Cindy Rogers (rogers944@comcast.net)

Voter Services Committee: Chair position is open. (lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)

Voter Services News

New Website for Voter Information: Pennsylvania Department of State

The Pennsylvania Department of State has a new website for voter information. The former website (VotesPA.com) will redirect individuals to the new website – vote.pa.gov – for one year.

New Ballot Box Purchased for the Indiana County Courthouse

The Indiana County Board of Elections will be ready to receive voted mail-in and absentee ballots in the new ballot box located inside the front door of the Indiana County Courthouse in early October 2021. The drop box will be available during regular courthouse hours (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and on Election Day until 8:00 p.m.

Children's Books About Voting

Birth to Age 3

- *Citizen Baby: My Vote*, Bryant, M.E. and Prosterman, D.
- *Baby Loves Democracy*, Spiro, R.
- *Go Vote, Baby!*, Lambert, N.R.

Ages 4-6

- *The Night Before Election Day*, Wing, N.
- *Max for President*, Krosoczka, J.J.
- *Vote for Our Future*, McNamara, M.
- *V is for Voting*, Farrell, K.
- *The President of the Jungle*, Rodrigues, A., Ribeiro, L., Desgualdo, P., and Markun, P.

Ages 7-9

- *Grace for President*, DiPucchio, K.
- *What's the Big Deal About Elections?*, Shamir, R.
- *I Voted: Making a Choice*, Shulman, M.
- *Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of Voting Rights – Act of 1965*, Winter, J.



LWVIC Fall Calendar

October 22, 2021 – Voter Registration Event

U.S. Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony at 11:00 a.m.
Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex
Karen Ross: ross.kknits@gmail.com

October 26, 2021 – Candidates Night

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Interviews at 7:00 p.m.
Indiana Area Senior High School Auditorium
Peggy Eyer: garbgov@yahoo.com
Aida Shotts: abshotts@gmail.com

November 2, 2021 – Election Day

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

November 15, 2021 – Monthly Board Meeting

Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Anne Simmons: lwvindianacounty@gmail.com

League Membership Dues

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

Annual dues for membership in the LWVIC are:

- Individual members – \$55.00
- Family membership – \$55.00 for first family member and \$27.50 for each additional family member
- Student membership – FREE

Please write checks to LWVIC and mail to Ellen Chinn, 156 Wine Avenue, Indiana, PA 15701. Another option is to pay using PayPal or with a debit or credit card. This information is on our website (lwvindianacounty.org) in the MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DONATIONS page.

New Board Members Elected for 2020 and 2021

2020 – Peggy Eyer

- B.S. Social Sciences and Masters in Reading Education
- Retired teacher of social studies, history, civics, and government in Indiana Area School District
- Assisted with school activities: History Club, Youth and Government, We the People, and Mock Trial
- Works part-time at Keys Montessori School
- Lifetime Girl Scout and former leader
- Active in AAUW and Calvary Presbyterian Church, IRMC volunteer

2020 – Barbara Hauge

- B.S. in Horticulture and B.S. in Landscape Architecture
- Certified Arborist and Green Infrastructure Professional
- UpStreet Architects – Licensed Landscape Architect and Coordinator of Marketing
- Active in PA/DE Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
- Presentations to students in three area school districts and to community organizations
- Assistant Executive Director of the Allegheny Arboretum at IUP and Program Manager of WalkWorks for Indiana County

2020 – Joyce Rizzo

- B.A. in Psychology, B.S. in Dietetics, M.Ed. Human Nutrition
- Instructor in Food and Nutrition Department at IUP and advisor of the Student Dietetic Association
- Member of national, state, and local Dietetic Associations; contributed journal articles and presented at national and state meetings
- Retired as Director of Health Services for Indiana County Chapter of the Red Cross
- Post-retirement Red Cross emergency response volunteer; teacher of CPR and First Aid
- Active in local Fair Districts group advocating for redistricting reform and the end of gerrymandering

2021 – Lizanne Porter

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree (D.V.M.) plus international course work
- Worked in veterinary clinics in Southern Ontario, Canada and Western Pennsylvania
- Spent three years working with livestock farmers in Indonesia for the Indonesian Government
- Taught at IUP and served on its Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, overseeing humane treatment of animals used in research
- Volunteered in reptile rescue in Guatemala; trained as a docent for the Pittsburgh Zoo
- Volunteered in New Orleans; taught language skills to adults for ARIN and taught children at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana

2021 – Deanne Snavelly

- Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry and post-doctoral research, B.S. in Chemistry
- IUP – Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics from 2011 to 2021
- Bowling Green State University (BGSU) – Interim Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; other administrative offices, beginning with Chair of the Department of Chemistry
- BGSU – Full Professor of Physical/Analytical Chemistry; supervised students in research; published 38 peer-reviewed articles in professional journals
- At IUP, engaged with graduates on Advisory Boards of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics; active in fund-raising for the new science building
- United Way Drive Chair at BGSU; Chair of the Board at United Christian Fellowship

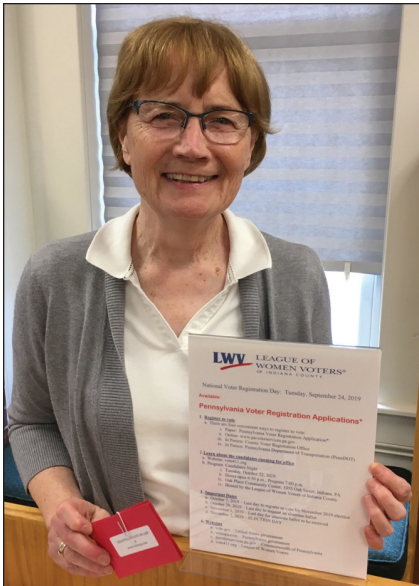
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY • BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Cindy Rogers, Vice President
Ellen Chinn, Treasurer • Susan Welsh, Secretary
Donna Cashdollar • Peggy Eyer • Linda Gwinn
Barb Hauge • Lizanne Porter • Joyce Rizzo
Aida Shotts • Kay Smith • Deanne Snavelly
Kay Snyder • Sandy Whitson

LWVIC Makes Plans for 2021-22 at the Annual Retreat



In August, League members and friends were hosted by Kay Baker Smith for the annual planning retreat. Her gardens and pavilion provided an ideal environment for a potluck picnic and thoughtful planning. Programs include voter registration events, a meet-the-candidates night in October, and a series of workshops examining some states' changes in voting laws and Pennsylvania's election reform efforts.



Board Secretary Sue Welsh has been coordinating voter registration events around the Indiana community and on IUP campus. League volunteers provide registration forms and offer pamphlets, bookmarks, and cards providing voter information to people who stop at the registration tables. Board Vice President Cindy Rogers and Board member Joyce Rizzo were among the volunteers at the Northern Appalachian Folk Festival in September.