

LWW

VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY

SUMMER 2022

Pennsylvania's Constitutional Amendment Process

by Anne E. Simmons, EdD, President, LWWIC

The members of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWWIC) have been studying issues involving voting rights, climate justice, public school funding, and gun legislation.

In a recent conversation with other LWWIC members, we discussed how amendments to the Pennsylvania constitution may be proposed. I credit Dr. Susan Boser for increasing my basic understanding. Dr. Boser participates in statewide conversations with League representatives in her membership role on both the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's Government Policy and Social Policy committees.

I realized that all of the aforementioned issues, including voting rights, will be directly impacted or controlled by how our elected officials are proposing changes to Pennsylvania's Constitution.

In brief, the Government of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is composed of three branches, the executive, legislative and judicial. Each branch of government has unique powers to check the other branches and prevent any one branch

from becoming too powerful (i.e., the Checks and Balances system). The unique power of the executive branch is to approve or veto laws.

The legislative branch has started the process of purposely sidestepping the veto power of the executive branch by using the three-step, multi-year constitutional amendment process. The circumnavigation of the executive branch has started (i.e., 1. Legislative session – July 2022; 2. Legislative session – January 2023; and 3. Primary Election – May 2023).

Please look for further communications about the scheduling of local meetings and statewide webinars as we begin to learn more about Pennsylvania's Constitutional Amendment process. In addition, please review the resources provided.

Resources:

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania
<https://www.palwv.org/news/pa-proposed-constitutional-amendments-what-you-need-to-know>

“A complete guide and amendment tracker for proposed changes to Pennsylvania's Constitution”
<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2022/01/pennsylvania-constitution-amendments-tracker-complete-guide/>

The Indiana Gazette, July 29, 2022

“Wolf sues to stop abortion, voting amendments”
https://www.indianagazette.com/news/wolf-sues-to-stop-gop-backed-amendments-on-abortion-voting/article_f9663388-069d-5307-bc2f-c506f47642e9.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

(Image: Wikimedia Commons)



LWVIC Presents Tenth Annual Environmental Awards

Indiana, June 2, 2022 – The League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) presented their tenth annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards at its annual meeting Thursday. This award recognizes citizens, groups, or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in issues that involve protecting or preserving the environment. The award was established in honor of a longtime Indiana County grassroots activist and League member, Peggy Clark, and is awarded annually to both an individual and a group or organization.

This year’s individual award was given to Mr. Silas Schiera. Silas started the recycling of plastic film in Indiana County in 2019 as a student at Indiana Area Senior High School and a Life Scout with Boy Scout Troop 1011. “Bags to Benches” earned him his Eagle Scout rank, Boy Scouts’ highest honor, by his successful collection of 500 pounds of plastic film in less than six months to complete the first “Bench Project” in Indiana County. The plastic is sent to the Trex Company, which makes composite lumber from recycled plastic, and Trex donates a poly-lumber outdoor bench in return. The first bench was installed at Indiana Area Senior High School. His project inspired multiple organizations in the county to start their own “Bags to Benches.” As of spring 2022, seven composite benches have been installed throughout Indiana County.

The group award this year went to Friends of Whites Woods (FWW). The group was formed in 1995 for the primary purpose of preserving White’s Woods Nature Center as a natural area for the conservation and recreation requirements of the Project 70 law that provided funding for the acquisition of the property.

Educating the general public about the value of the relationships between habitat, air, and water quality that nurture us all is a key goal as well. FWW has promoted public engagement in environmental concerns by a number of different approaches: educational programming, collaboration with other environmentally-focused community organizations, public advocacy, support of state-wide conservation organizations, engaging the public in community environmental decision-making, sponsoring important community-wide programming and discussions regarding climate change and carbon sequestration, and highlighting the value of our local natural area to local residents and those outside our community. FWW was selected for the group award because of the tremendous impact they have made not only by informing the public about potential threats to the WW Nature Center, but also for engaging the local population in conservation, preservation and activism. The FWW board is comprised of local residents and citizens who are striving to make the Indiana community a better place to live.



From L to R: Laurie Lafontaine, Committee Chair; Ellen Chinn; Tom Miller; Dave Dahlheimer; Susan Dahlheimer; Norma Tarnoff; Silas Schiera, Individual Award Winner; Carolyn Trimarchi; Jessica Jopp; Kay Snyder

Promoting Political Responsibility and Nonpartisanship

by Anne E. Simmons

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is striving to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

League members are often asked to explain the concept of “nonpartisan,” which is stated in our LWVIC Bylaws as, “not supporting or opposing any political party or any candidate.”

However, the League as an organization does take positions on **issues**, based on principles of responsible government and public discussion. (As individuals, League members can support political parties and candidates.)

The expectation is that issues of importance are deliberated at the local, state, and national levels, and that positions on issues evolve over time. The local Leagues in Pennsylvania meet at the statewide convention in odd-number years (i.e., Summer 2023), and all of the local Leagues across the United States are invited to participate in the national convention in even-numbered years (e.g., Summer 2024). It is at these conventions that positions on issues are reviewed, and modifications and additions are discussed and voted upon.

To increase your understanding of positions on issues, the following resources are recommended. If you need assistance accessing any resources, please send an email to:

lwvindianacounty@gmail.com.

Voting and Elections

www.vote.pa.gov is the official Pennsylvania Department of State website. It includes the following topics:

- Voting in Pennsylvania
- Register to Vote
- About Elections
- Your Rights.

www.vote411.org is sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Learn about candidates and see what’s on your ballot.

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

- Where We Stand: Positions on Issues 2021-2023
- Link:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/612fcbe71d4091159942be60/t/629f65a3e8ab054a69ce2810/1654613412657/Where+We+Stand+2021-2023.pdf>

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

- Where We Stand: Positions in Brief
- Website: www.palwv.org

Locate ‘Issues’ tab at the top of the page
Scroll to and select: “Where We Stand”
Scroll down to “Positions in Brief”
Click on a position (e.g., Election law, Education, etc.)

League of Women Voters of the United States

- Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions
- Link: <https://www.lwv.org/impact-issues>
- You may request to borrow a ‘hard copy’ of the “LWVUS: Impact on Issues,” by sending an email to lwvindianacounty@gmail.com.

In addition, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) recently posted their nonpartisan policy on their website. You can read the LWVPA Board Nonpartisan Political Policy by clicking the following link:

<https://www.palwv.org/nonpartisan-policy>.

Candidates Night – October 25

Candidates Night is a free, public program and all community members are encouraged to participate. This nonpartisan forum allows candidates for office to respond to questions posed by audience members. The event will be held in the auditorium of Indiana Area Senior High School and 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.

LWVIC Activities Highlighted Our Natural Environment



Celebrating Earth Day in Whites Woods

LWVIC joined several IUP and community groups in highlighting the importance of forests in mitigating the damaging effects of climate change, enhancing our quality of life, and protecting our livelihoods.

< From L to R: LWVIC members Cindy Rogers, Anne Simmons, Joyce Rizzo, Lillian Clemons, Daniel Widzowski, Lizanne Porter, Sherene Hess, Cheri Widzowski, and Ellen Chinn.

Below, top: Susan Welsh and Aida Shotts staffed the literature table. Left, Ellen Chinn and Karen Ross set up a table for learning about Lyme disease and ticks. Thanks to Tom Simmons for supplying ticks!

Educational Fun at Nature Palooza

LWVIC members volunteered at the annual Nature Palooza, a day of family-oriented activities sponsored by the Children’s Advisory Commission of Indiana County on June 4 at Blue Spruce Park. “Preventing Lyme Disease” was a featured topic, providing information about the increase in ticks and cases of the disease in our region, and measures to avoid Lyme infection. Park visitors could view the life stages of blacklegged ticks under a microscope.



Regional Climate Stories

Atchoo! Climate Change Is Making Allergies Worse!

by Lizanne Porter



Since about 30% of the world's population has pollen-related allergies, many of us already experience sneezing and running noses every spring, summer and/or fall. One study found that between 1990 and 2018, pollen season grew 20 days longer and 20% more intense. Another study found an increase in pollen season of 11-27 days, between 1995-2011. Why? With warmer springs, plants bloom earlier and with more warm days in the fall, plants continue to grow. In addition, higher carbon dioxide levels can cause increased blooms, which means higher concentrations of pollen in the air. If that wasn't bad enough, when air pollution particulates attach to pollen grains, they can make them explode into tiny pieces that easily get into your respiratory tract. So increased pollution is making the problem worse too, along with warming temperatures.

Many people have sensitivity to more than one type of pollen. Unfortunately, as pollen seasons of many different plants lengthen, there is more overlap among them. Plants that used to bloom at different times now have a period in which BOTH bloom, and if you are allergic to both, that is not a good thing! People who never used to have pollen allergies are also more likely to develop them as pollen concentrations increase, so more and more people will become affected. Also, as climate changes, plants move into new areas, and winds can bring pollen and seeds across borders.

A specific example that has been studied is ragweed. An estimated 15.5% of Americans—or about one in seven—suffer from ragweed allergies. Scientists looked at ragweed growth in 11 areas and found longer seasons in ten of them. They found that the seasons grew the most, the further north the location. This corresponds to other data which shows climate change is more rapid in higher (northern) latitudes.

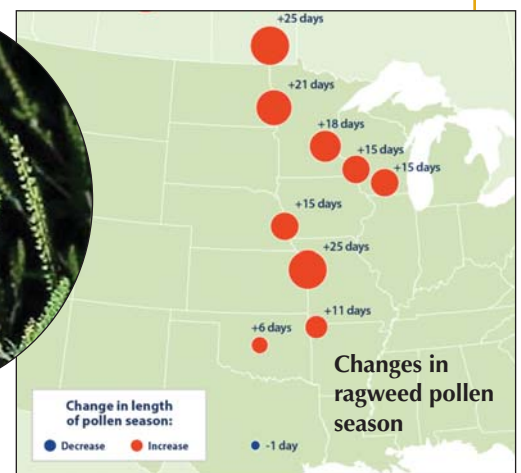
The medical costs of allergies have been estimated at over \$3 billion per year. This doesn't even include things like lost productivity or decreased learning in schools, or the costs of other health problems which can be more prevalent with allergies, like viral infections.

What can you do to lessen allergies? Keep an eye on pollen counts and the Air Quality Index to limit your exposure to pollens—stay indoors, with windows closed, when counts and pollution are high. When you come in, leave shoes outside if possible and change clothes. Showering at night can remove pollens trapped in hair. And of course, seek medical advice!

What can all of us do to help those with allergies? Work on reducing or limiting climate change. That may seem like a lot—but every individual has an impact—our actions add up! We can make the world a healthier place for everyone.



Ragweed in bloom



Resources:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/03/15/1086733875/hotter-temps-bring-more-pollen-meaning-climate-change-will-intensify-allergy-sea>

<https://www.aafa.org/climate-and-health/#:~:text=Warmer%20temperatures%20from%20climate%20change,an%20increase%20in%20allergy%20symptoms>

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-ragweed-pollen-season>

<https://weather.com/health/allergy/news/2021-04-16-study-climate-change-making-allergies-worse>

CACE Reviews Information on U.S. Gun Violence

by Susan Welsh and Anne E. Simmons

At the recent Child Advocacy Committee Meeting on July 27, 2022, Dr. Susan Welsh provided a summary of the report titled, “A Year in Review: 2020 Gun Deaths in the United States” published in April 2022 by the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions:

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2022-05/2020-gun-deaths-in-the-us-4-28-2022-b.pdf>.

Importantly, the report provided evidence-based policy recommendations to decrease gun violence that state legislatures and communities should prioritize.

Policy Recommendations – page 9

Gun violence is a complex issue requiring many approaches to its prevention. We are committed to evidence-based policies, programs, and practices and ensuring that all of these preventative measures are designed and implemented equitably. Below, we highlight a few promising policy recommendations to stop gun violence in all its forms. For more information on gun violence solutions, visit our website at <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/gun-violence-solutions>.

- *States should implement firearm purchaser licensing (also known as permit-to-purchase) that requires prospective gun purchasers to obtain a license prior to buying a gun.*
- *States should enact and implement firearm removal laws – Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) and Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs).*
- *Communities should prioritize funding for Homicide Review Commissions (HRC) and community violence intervention (CVI).*

In addition, the report concluded that a public health approach is needed to address the ongoing gun violence and that gun violence is preventable.

Conclusion – page 28

In 2020, the outbreak of COVID-19 exacerbated the ongoing gun violence epidemic impacting

**Firearm Deaths increased
by 35% from 2019 to 2020**

There were
45,222
gun deaths in the U.S.



The highest number of gun deaths ever in the U.S.

Graphic: Johns Hopkins University – Center for Gun Violence Solutions

individuals, families, and communities. Gun violence affects all of us; it remains the leading cause of death for young people, and it disproportionately impacts both communities of color and those in the most rural communities. Fortunately, this crisis of gun violence is preventable. We must call for a comprehensive public health approach to address this crisis, pushing for evidence-based and equitable gun violence solutions.

A summary of the report was published on the website of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Listed below are a few statements and the link to the report summary.

- *As in recent years, gun violence was the leading cause of death for young people under age 25.*
- *Overall, males were five times more likely to die by gun homicide than females, and nearly seven times more likely to die by firearm suicide than females.*
- *The researchers noted that states with the lowest gun death rates have stronger gun laws.*

Link:

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2022/new-report-highlights-us-2020-gun-related-deaths-highest-number-ever-recorded-by-cdc-gun-homicides-increase-by-more-than-one-third>

Public Safety and Gun Legislation *by Susan Welsh and Anne E. Simmons*

Susan Welsh (chair of LWVIC's Child Advocacy Committee on Education), Kay Smith (chair of Voter Services Committee), and Susan Boser (LWVIC's representative to LWVPA's Government Policy Committee) are working together to provide sources of information on firearm law, firearm deaths, and firearms safety and control. We are not against responsible firearm ownership but are for a revaluing of public safety and public health in the face of unacceptably escalating gun deaths, gun suicides, and mass shootings.

Our first step in responding to local concerns about escalating firearm violence was to seek education about gun laws and their enforcement in Pennsylvania.

On July 20, 2022, State Trooper Clifford Greenfield gave a ZOOM presentation sponsored by the Indiana League. His topic was "Current Gun Laws in Pennsylvania." Trooper Greenfield is the public information officer and community services officer for Troop A. Links to the sources he referenced in his presentation are listed here:

- *Title 18, Pennsylvania Crimes Code*
Chapter 5, General Principles of Justification
Chapter 9, Inchoate Crimes
Chapter 27, Assault
Chapter 61, Firearms and Other Dangerous Articles
- Pennsylvania State Police website, www.psp.pa.gov for annual PA firearms reports
- Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General website, www.attorneygeneral.gov for discussions of Firearms Education and Training in PA and Carrying Firearms in PA
- Commonwealth of Pennsylvania website, www.pa.gov for a link to Concealed Carry Agreements
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives website, www.atf.gov for informative Q & A pages.

This information is also available on the LWVIC website at www.lwvindianacounty.org.

Additional resources on the topic of Public Safety and Gun Legislation are also at the website. This portion of our site will expand as LWVIC expands its research into public health and safety, public policy, relevant legislation, and advocacy on this issue.

Additional Sources:

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, www.palwv.org. Locate 'Issues' tab at the top of the page. Scroll to and select: "Social Issues." On the "Social Policies: On Our Radar" page, click on "Legislative Tracker" or "Gun Safety."

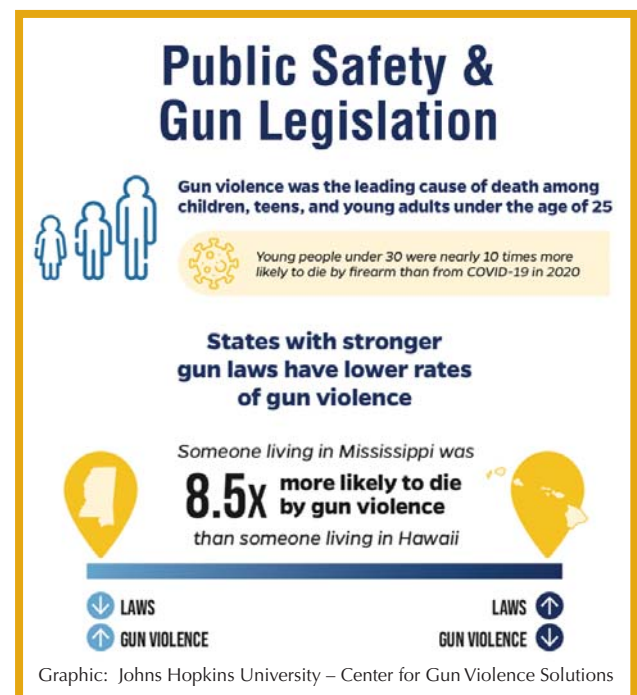
Cease Fire PA: www.ceasefirepa.org

Moms Demand Action:
www.momsdemandaction.org

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence:
www.bradyunited.org

Sandy Hook PROMISE: www.sandy-hookpromise.org

As League members, we have the opportunity to increase our understanding of local public safety issues and proposed ordinances. Please participate in LWVIC-CACE meetings. Meeting times and details are on the LWVIC website: www.lwvindianacounty.org.



LWVIC and Fix Harrisburg Share Radio Interview

by Susan Welsh

On July 14 Stanley Chepaitis of Fair Districts PA and Susan Welsh of LWVIC's Child Advocacy Committee on Education spoke on WCCS radio's "Indiana in the Morning" program. Fair Districts's new campaign, called Fix Harrisburg, advocates for a revision of legislative rules. Stanley explained that in Pennsylvania the legislative rules are established by the majority party and can then be used by that party to stall legislation even when bipartisan support is strong.

Bills intended to address needs important to many citizens across party lines can be stalled for years—shuffled from committee to committee or amended in ways that change the intent of a bill, causing it to perish. In PA, 75% of proposed bills never see a floor vote; 85% of bills that actually pass are passed with only majority party support.

Susan spoke on the particular issue of Charter School Law reform. Charter schools are public schools funded by local and state taxes. In 1997, when they were authorized, charter law set tuition formulas for regular and special education students who opt to attend a charter school. The same formulas were later applied to cyber charter schools, which began opening in 2002.

A charter student's tuition is sent to the charter from the home district's budget. The home districts soon learned that there was little correlation between what it cost them, in district, to educate students and what the charters were receiving for tuition. The tuitions, especially cyber and special education tuitions, were bloated, and profiteering had begun, but the old funding formulas still require home districts to send more money to the charters than is needed to operate their programs.

The old funding formulas have been a drain on school district budgets for years. A 2019 study found that many school districts could provide a full online learning program for about \$5000 for a regular student and \$8,900 for a special

education student. But they paid cyber charter tuitions of \$7,800 to \$18,500 for regular students, and \$15,900 to \$40,000 for special education students. In Indiana County alone, a revised funding formula based on a recommended cyber tuition of \$5,000 would have saved our school districts about \$2,200,000 in 2020 (www.educationvoterspa.org). Moreover, learning outcomes in the cyber charters have been abysmal.

Since 2010, four Auditor General reports have documented the funding problems and advised the General Assembly to reform the funding formulas. Since 2019, 82% of PA's school boards (410 of PA's 500 districts) have sent a resolution to legislators calling the need for reform "urgent" (www.pspa.org). Of the eight bills proposed to address charter and cyber charter school funding and administration, all of them—100%—have languished.

The legislative stalemate on charter funding reform continues to deplete school district budgets even though fair funding and fair oversight are what taxpayers, education advocates, professional auditors, and most school boards support. In some other states where legislative rules are different, bills with strong bipartisan support garner better treatment: they are guaranteed a vote in committee, guaranteed a vote on the chamber floor when voted out of committee, and, if passed by one chamber, will get a vote in the other chamber. Rules like these can spur greater bipartisan effort and success.



Bipartisan Gun Safety Bills Stuck in Committee in the Pennsylvania House and Senate

by Susan Boser

A number of bills on gun safety have been introduced into the Pennsylvania State House and the Senate over the last 11-17 months. Some were introduced by Democrats, some by Republicans, and at least one was co-sponsored by a Republican and a Democrat. These bills have bipartisan support among legislators. However, the bills have all been stuck in committee for a year or more.

In June, a minority group announced that they intended to use a “discharge resolution” to force the House to vote on these bills. A discharge resolution forces a bill out of a committee. To use this discharge resolution, at least 25 representatives must sign on. The four bills they wanted to force to a vote are all located in the House Judiciary Committee; these bills are:

- HB 1847 – Firearms Training for First-Time Purchasers
- HB 1903 – Extreme Risk Protective Orders Using Data Driven, Evidence-Based Practices to Reduce Suicides
- HB 235 – Universal Background Checks
- HB 717 – Ban Assault Weapons for People Under 21

The group announced they would use this discharge resolution in session on Thursday, June 9. Then, on Wednesday, June 8, House Speaker Cutler announced that the Thursday June 9 session was cancelled.

At that time, the House Judiciary Committee announced that it was holding a meeting on Monday, June 13. At that June 13 meeting, Judiciary Committee Chair Kauffman formally moved the four bills over to the Local Government Committee. This move resets the clock, thereby blocking the discharge resolution. (Note: in 2019 Kauffman had stated that a bill like HB 1903 would not advance out of the committee as long as he was in charge.)

Right, top to bottom: Chambers of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of representatives (Images: Wikimedia Commons)

The Local Government Committee Chair, Rep. Jerry Knowles, announced that he has not determined his plans for these bills.

A similar process happened in the Senate. On Tuesday June 7, Democrats filed six Discharge Resolutions on bills. These bills include:

- SB 88 – Universal Background Check
- SB 448 – Limits firearm regulations (prohibits local municipalities from passing own gun laws)
- SB 855 – Firearm Safety Certificate

All bills had been in Judiciary Committee. On June 30, this discharge resolution was dropped from the Senate calendar without action.

These actions reflect the power that the House and Senate rules have over bringing bills to a vote. It maintains control over the agenda in the hands of a few, and prevents bipartisan legislation from being considered and voted on.



Annual Yard Sale Raised Funds for LWVIC Programs

Special thanks to Ellen Chinn and her husband Jon Southard for leading the 2022 sale, the only fundraiser LWVIC holds each year. Due to their efforts and those of many others in the community, the sale raised \$4,250 for LWVIC programs.

Donations and tables were provided by these groups: Aging Services of Indiana County, Fair Districts Group, First Unitarian Universalist



Church of Indiana, Indiana County Humane Society, Indiana County Parks and Trails, Indiana Free Library, and Kovalchick Corporation.

Twenty-seven LWVIC members volunteered to prepare for the sale and/or helped during the days of the sale:

Bonnie Adair, Faye Bradwick, Vera Bonnet, Donna Cashdollar, Ellen Chinn, Peggy Eyer, Anna Goldman, Sherene Hess, Beth Marshall, Sally McCombie, Eirn Okey, Lizanne Porter, Lucy Powers, Joyce Rizzo, Cindy Rogers, Karen Ross, Aida Shotts, Anne Simmons, Tom Simmons, Kay Smith, Deanne Snavely, Kay Snyder, Jon Southard, Sara Steelman, Dreama VanCise Watta, Susan Welsh, and Sandy Whitson.

Top: Tom Simmons, Kay Smith, and Kay Snyder moved donated furniture into the sales area.
Above: LWVIC and the Indiana County Humane Society shared space for their fundraising sales, a spring tradition for several years.
Below: LWVIC members working at the check-out table included Cindy Rogers, Ellen Chinn, Sandy Whitson, and Sara Steelman.
(Images: Cheri Widzowski)



Susan Boser Elected to LWVIC Board

Susan Boser was elected to the LWVIC Board at the annual membership meeting in June 2022.

- B.A. English, M.S.Ed. in Counseling Psychology, Ph.D. in Policy Analysis–Human Services
- Full Professor, IUP Department of Sociology. Expertise in Social Policy, Human Service System, Nonprofit Management, Research Methods, and Program Evaluation
- Member of the LWVPA Government Policy Committee and the Social Policy Committee
- Past member of the Indiana County Economic Sustainable Development Task Force. Six years on the Board of Directors, Community Guidance center
- 2012 Fulbright Senior Scholar, teaching and conducting research in Nepal on local governance and democratic practices
- Led two study abroad programs in Brazil, focusing on sustainable development

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Grant Awarded to LWVIC

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) received grant funding from the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) to improve the accessibility and to increase the participation of Indiana County citizens in local League programs. Every effort will be made to advance the accessibility and participation by offering programs using online platforms, American Sign Language Interpreter Services, and providing print materials in multiple world languages.

At the annual membership meeting in June, an amendment to the LWVIC bylaws was approved that affirms the organization’s commitment to “diversity, equity, and inclusion in principal and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.”

Bags to Benches Project Ongoing; LWVPA Environment and Plastics Work Group Starting in the Fall *by Cindy Rogers*

The LWVIC Environmental Committee works with Evergreen Conservancy to do this project and we take turns every three months or so to sponsor the collection. Together we have collected close to 5000 pounds of plastic. We turn our plastic in at Giant Eagle and self-report our pounds.

When we collect over 500 pounds, TREX sends us a bench, which we donate to the community. We have donated benches to Chevy Chase Community Center, YMCA of Indiana County, Indiana County Conservation District, Indiana County Community Action Program (ICCAP), The Community Garden, Giant Eagle, and Aging Services at the Mahoning Center.

We are currently working on our eighth collection. There are public collection bins located at the YMCA, Indiana Borough Building on N. Eighth

Street, and S&T Bank Arena/White Township Recreation. Keep on collecting your plastic!!! You can go on our website to see the types of plastic you can recycle: www.lwvindiana-county.org/plastics-and-the-environment/

Environment and Plastics Work Group

Kathy Cook, LWVPA Environmental Policy Director, plans to organize a work group to research issues around plastics and the environment, starting in September 2022. Some in the group will work on revamping the “All About Plastics” brochure that our local League published several years ago. If you are interested in joining this Environment and Plastics work group, contact Kathy Cook at cookkathy113@gmail.com.

LWVIC Membership and Working Committees

LWVIC 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 and Fix Harrisburg Campaign – Joyce Rizzo (rizzojoyce6@gmail.com)
- Environmental Issues Committee – Cindy Rogers (rogers944@comcast.net)
- Voter Services Committee – Kay Smith (kaybsmith06@gmail.com)
- Editor, *Voter* – Donna Cashdollar (donna.cashdollar@comcast.net)

LWVIC Membership

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all people age 16 and over. Men have been members of the League since 1973. The term “Women” remains in the title to honor the women who fought tirelessly for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY • BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anne Simmons, President
Cindy Rogers, Vice President
Ellen Chinn, Treasurer • Susan Welsh, Secretary
Susan Boser • Donna Cashdollar
Lizanne Porter • Joyce Rizzo • Aida Shotts
Kay Smith • Deanne Snavely • Kay Snyder

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

The LWVIC hosts board meetings on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. using the Zoom platform. LWVIC members are welcome to participate. To request the Zoom invitation and meeting agenda, please send an email to: lwvindianacounty@gmail.com.

Dues for an individual are \$55.00 per year. For each additional family member, dues are \$27.50 per year. Student membership is free.

For additional information or to provide a gift of membership to a friend or family member, please contact Sandy Whitson, LWVIC Membership Chair (swhitson8@comcast.net).

Upcoming Fall Events

SEPTEMBER

Northern Appalachia Folk Festival

Saturday, September 10

Voter Registration Event

Philadelphia Street near Spaghetti Benders

LWVIC Board Retreat

Saturday, September 17

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Kay Smith’s home, 19 Erica Drive, Indiana

National Voter Registration Day

Tuesday, September 20

OCTOBER

Last day to register to vote

Monday, October 24

Website: www.vote.pa.gov

LWVIC Candidates Night

Tuesday, October 25

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Indiana Area Senior High School Auditorium
(Special thanks to Peggy Eyer for making the arrangements)

NOVEMBER

Last day to request a mail-in or absentee ballot

Tuesday, November 1

Website: www.vote.pa.gov

General Election Day

Tuesday, November 8

Polls are open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.