



# LWV

# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY

SPRING 2023

## LWVIC Spring Membership Luncheon Meeting Agenda

by Anne Simmons

**Saturday, May 20, 2023, 12:00 noon**  
**Grauer Hall, UU Church, 285 Twolick Drive,**  
**Indiana, PA**

### **I. Potluck Lunch – Salad Extravaganza**

See page 6 of this newsletter.

### **II. Presentation – Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards**

The LWVIC presents two awards each year in honor of Peggy Clark, a longtime Indiana County grassroots environmental activist and League member. These awards recognize citizens, groups, or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment. There are two award categories: individual and group.

### **III. Business Meeting**

#### **a. Secretary's Report**

#### **b. Treasurer's Report**

#### **c. Program for 2023-2024**

- Child Advocacy Committee on Education
- Equity Committee – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Environmental Issues Committee
- Voter Services Committee
  - Citizen Education
  - Fair Districts PA and Fix Harrisburg
  - Government Policy
  - Safe and Secure Elections
  - Social Policy
  - VOTE411
  - Voting and Elections
- Additional program items for 2023-2024 recommended by members

### **d. Nominations and Elections**

Terms: July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025

- President
- Administrative Vice President
- Secretary
- Board Directors

## Earth Day Walk to White's Woods



Global temperatures are currently on track to rise by 2.8 degrees centigrade by the end of this century. The United Nations Emissions Gap Report (October 27, 2022) finds that the world must cut carbon emissions by 45 percent to avoid global environmental catastrophe. Local farmers are already seeing changes in growing conditions. Climate change already has led to weather disasters and failing agriculture in many parts of our world.

Help alert our community about the need to act, and celebrate the contribution White's Woods makes to help mitigate the impact of climate change on our community. Walk to the 12th Street entrance to the White's Woods Nature Center. Plan to arrive between 1:00-3:00 p.m. Grist for the Mill will be playing at the entrance. The first 100 arrivals will receive two free oak tree seedlings. This family-friendly event is sponsored by Friends of White's Woods:

[www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org](http://www.friendsofwhiteswoods.org)

Learn about initiatives promoted by International Earth Day 2023, and what you can do to help protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/>



**May 13 & 14**

**Indiana Co. Fairgrounds Sports Barn**

**Regular Sale**  
**Saturday May 13**  
**8:00 am-4:00 pm**

**\$5 Bag Sale**  
**Sunday May 14**  
**12:00 - 4:00 pm**

**Donation Drop-Off Times**

**May 8-12      9am – Noon**  
**May 10 & 11      5-7 pm**

Please contact us at  
[lwvindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvindianacounty@gmail.com)  
with any questions or for pick up

# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Conversation Continues

by Anne Simmons

Everyone is welcome to join a community conversation about DEI that will help us increase our understanding of social justice issues as well as enable us to build support and connections in our community.



Kate Geiger, Lillian Clemons, and Ellen Chinn represent the Indiana Free Library and other community groups engaged in DEI conversations.

Community organizations including the Indiana Free Library and the League of Women Voters are partnering with other community groups and individuals to facilitate these community conversations. We are inviting middle school and high school students, college students, parents, and community members to participate.

Book group members may choose to read either of the two books noted below. The books are aligned and organized into the same five sections.

- *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You*; Author Jason Reynolds
- *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*; Author Ibram X. Kendi

Seeing the need to get more books for community members, LWVIC purchased 30 additional copies through a special grant from LWVPA, in addition to 16 books originally purchased for this project.

The meetings will be held at the Indiana Free Library on Monday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We hope to offer individuals the opportunity to participate in-person or virtually. This program is free and open to the public and we make every effort to be sure they are accessible to all.

**Meeting 4: April 17, 2023**

**Section 4: 1868-1963; W.E.B. DuBois**

**Meeting 5: May 1, 2023**

**Section 5: 1963-Today; Angela Davis**

## LWVIC Named a Beneficiary of the Estate of Diane Duntley

by Ellen Chinn

Dr. Diane Duntley, a long-time League member, passed away in September 2022, bequeathing the League and 18 other organizations and charities a portion of her life insurance. We were saddened by her passing, but the inheritance was a complete and welcome surprise. As a result, we received a payment of \$14,582.16 from Jackson National Life Insurance Company in October 2022. This amount has given us greater financial stability and enabled us to accomplish more of our advocacy goals.

In recognition of Dr. Duntley's career in education and dedication to student mentoring and civic participation, a portion of the bequest has been invested, allowing LWVIC to offer an annual scholarship with the interest earned from the investment. We feel it is a fitting way to honor a model League member and citizen who gave so generously of her time and talent.

# Microplastic Pollutants in the Ocean

by Ellen Chinn

There are two types of microplastic pollutants in our oceans. Primary microplastics, or microbeads, are designed to be small and intended to be used to exfoliate or cleanse the human body in products such as facial cleansers and scrubs, toothpaste, and bath products. Microbeads are also used in lotions, deodorants, cosmetics and non-cosmetic products. The Microbead-Free Water Act of 2015 (MFWA) prohibited the manufacture of rinse-off cosmetics containing plastic microbeads (2017) and banned the sale of cosmetics (2018) and over-the-counter drugs (2019) containing microbeads. Other countries including Canada, France, India, New Zealand, Sweden, Taiwan and the United Kingdom have at least partial bans on microbeads but they continue to be produced and used elsewhere. Secondary microplastics are formed from the degradation of larger plastic into particles less than 5 mm, or 0.2 inches, long. Now that we know what primary and secondary microplastics are, let's explore how they end up in our oceans and why we need to stop the flow.

Much of the plastic in the oceans is made up of plastic waste from careless dumping on land. Aided by wind, rain, runoff, and storms, the plastic makes its way into rivers and lakes, washing into the ocean at a rate of about nine million tons a year. Sounds like a lot but how much is nine million tons? Nine million tons is 18,000,000,000 (18 billion) pounds. To put that in perspective, if you stacked 18 billion one-dollar bills, the stack would be over 1200 miles tall! End-to-end, 18 billion one-dollar bills would reach around the Earth seventy times! So, 18 billion pounds of plastic is an almost unfathomably huge amount going into our oceans, and that's in just one year. Even more concerning, only about one percent is visible floating on the surface, suggesting that most of the plastic in the ocean is in the form of microplastics and nanoplastics.

Plastic poses many threats to sea life—we have all seen heartbreaking images of birds, turtles, dolphins, even whales. In addition, plastic breaks down, or degrades, into smaller and smaller pieces driven by the actions of wind, waves, temperature and sunlight. Note that the plastic



Much of the plastic in the oceans comes from careless dumping of plastic waste on land.

*Top, image by Naja Bertolt Jensen  
Right, image by John Cameron*



doesn't decompose like an apple core in a compost pile. It remains in the environment indefinitely; it merely gets broken into smaller and smaller pieces. What happens to all these microplastics? Are they harmful to the environment?

Microplastics have been found in every ecosystem on Earth, including oceans from the depths of the Mariana Trench throughout the water column to the surface. Microplastics not only leach chemicals into the environment, they can attract and concentrate heavy metals and organic pollutants 100,000-1,000,000 times the concentration in surrounding sea water. An example is polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Although PCBs have been banned because of their carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic effects on humans, they remain in the environment where they can be concentrated by adsorption to plastic, ingested by small organisms and moved up the food web, referred to as bioaccumulation.

Although concentration of heavy metals and organic pollutants is a problem, microplastics are also attracted to naturally-occurring, oily slicks of surface water rich in organic compounds which act as nutrient-rich larval fish nurseries. The most critical moment for larval fish is the first feeding. If successful, they live another day.

## Microplastic Pollutants in the Ocean

If that first meal is a piece of microplastic, they are not consuming the calories they need to survive and will most likely perish. Fish provide critical protein for sea birds, other marine animals and almost three billion people. Fish stocks are already less than half of what they were in 1970, mostly due to overfishing, but they've also fallen prey to pollution and climate change effects. In a study of these slicks and larval fish, researchers found that microplastics outnumbered larval fish by more than seven to one. Compared to water outside slicks, the concentration of plastic was almost 130 times greater. Even if fish survive the larval stage, ingesting plastic as part of their diet can affect size, reproductive ability and, ultimately, population size.

We need to stop the flow! We cannot keep making and dumping plastic in our oceans! And we need to attack the problem from all directions—by making far less plastic, especially the single-use variety, by passing legislation to make plastic manufacturers responsible for cleaning up the plastic mess they produce, by inventing better ways to remove plastic from the environment, by funding research to find alternatives to plastic. Examples already in the works include: scientists at the University of California San Diego developing new biodegradable materials that are designed to replace conventionally used plastic, development of a “nanocoil” capable of breaking microplastics into carbon dioxide and water, and development of a magnetic liquid up to 87 percent efficient in removing microplastics from water.

“The Problem with Plastic”

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/hazards/marine-debris/plastics-in-the-ocean.html#:~:text=Unlike%20some%20other%20kinds%20of,into%20tiny%20pieces%20called%20microplastics>

“Putting ‘One Billion’ in Perspective Will Blow Your Mind”

<https://2madness.com/putting-one-billion-in-perspective-will-blow-your-mind-1459798bfe81>

“Microplastics” <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/microplastics>

“Microplastics in fish and fishmeal: an emerging environmental challenge?”

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-814998#:~:text=Based%20on%20conservative%20estimates%20over,human%20consumption%20to%20these%20particles>

“Marine Microplastics”

<https://www.whoi.edu/know-your-ocean/ocean-topics/ocean-human-lives/pollution/marine-microplastics/>

“Nationwide Ban on Plastic Microbeads in Cosmetics”

<https://www.bdlaw.com/publications/nationwide-ban-on-plastic-microbeads-in-cosmetics/#:~:text=At%20least%2029%20states%20have,care%20products%20containing%20plastic%20microbeads.https://www.americanococeans.org/blog/microplastics-in-ocean/>

“Microplastics in Our Waters, An Unquestionable Concern”

[https://extension.psu.edu/microplastics-in-our-waters-an-unquestionableconcern#:~:text=Microplastics%20can%20leach%20chemicals%20into,is%20polychlorinated%20biphenyls%20\(PCBs\).](https://extension.psu.edu/microplastics-in-our-waters-an-unquestionableconcern#:~:text=Microplastics%20can%20leach%20chemicals%20into,is%20polychlorinated%20biphenyls%20(PCBs).)

“Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)”

[https://www.in.gov/idem/files/factsheet\\_pcb.pdf](https://www.in.gov/idem/files/factsheet_pcb.pdf)

“A Sea Change for Plastic Pollution: New Material Biodegrades in Ocean Water”

[https://today.ucsd.edu/story/a-sea-change-for-plastic-pollution-new-material-biodegrades-in-ocean-water?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Biodegradables%3A%20Sea%20Change%20for%20Plastic%20Pollution&utm\\_campaign=TM-ENG-Jan\\_FY23](https://today.ucsd.edu/story/a-sea-change-for-plastic-pollution-new-material-biodegrades-in-ocean-water?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Biodegradables%3A%20Sea%20Change%20for%20Plastic%20Pollution&utm_campaign=TM-ENG-Jan_FY23)

“What Are Microplastics? And Why You Should Care”

<https://www.4ocean.com/blogs/blog/what-are-microplastics-and-why-you-should-care>

# Upcoming Events

## APRIL

**April 22 – Earth Day Walk to White’s Woods:**  
(Sponsored by the Friends of White’s Woods)  
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
North 12th Street entrance to Nature Center

**April 24 – LWVIC monthly board meeting:**  
7:00 p.m. via Zoom

**April 25 – Meet the School Board Candidates** (Sponsored by the Indiana Area Education Association)  
5:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Indiana Area Senior High School  
450 North 5th Street, Indiana

## MAY

**May 1 – Last day to register to vote in May Primary Election**

**May 1 – Community Conversations about DEI:**  
7:00 p.m., Indiana Free Library

**May 13/14 – LWVIC Annual Yard Sale:**  
Indiana County Fairgrounds Sports Barn  
Donation drop-off times and sale times, see page 2.

**May 16 – Primary Election Day**

**May 20 – LWVIC Spring Membership Meeting and Potluck Salad Luncheon:**  
12:00 noon, Grauer Hall, UU Church  
285 Two Lick Drive, Indiana  
See page 1 for meeting agenda.

## JUNE

**June 3 – Nature Palooza: Children’s Advisory Commission of Indiana County**  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Blue Spruce Park

**June 16 - 18 – LWVPA Convention**  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrisburg



# Potluck Salad Lunch

**Potluck “Salad Extravaganza”**

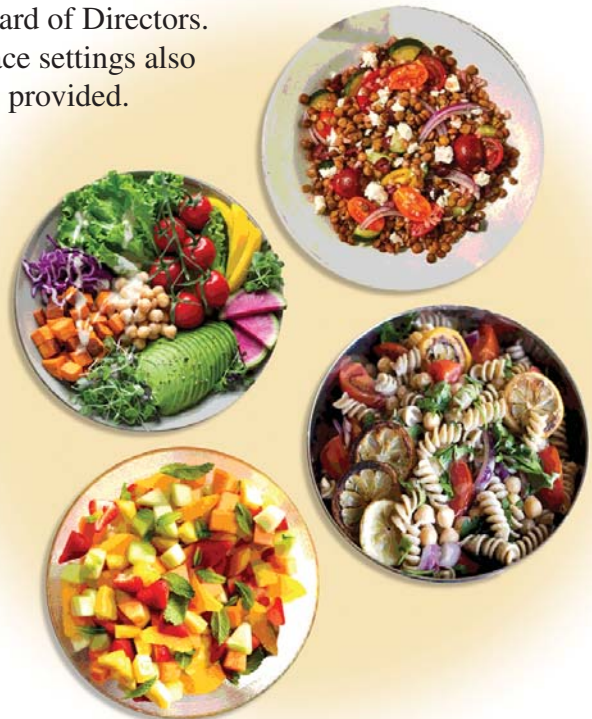
**Occasion: Spring Membership Meeting**

**Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023**

**Time: 12:00 noon**

**Location: Grauer Hall, UU Church,  
285 Twolick Drive, Indiana, PA**

Potluck: Please bring your favorite salad to share. Fruit salad, bread, and dessert as well as coffee, tea and water will be provided by the LWVIC Board of Directors. Place settings also are provided.



## 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

Editor, *Voter*: Donna Cashdollar

## 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](mailto:lwvindianacounty@gmail.com).