

VOTER



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

Volume XXVI Issue 37
April, 2007

LWWIC Board of Directors, 2005-2006

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Aida Shotts

**Next Board Meeting
of LWWIC:**

April 11, 2007

11:30 a.m. at

**Diane Duntley's home
204 Greenview Ct.**

724-349-2718

**All members and guests
are welcome**

SAVE THE DATE!! LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING MAY 30, 2007—6:30 P.M. Mitchell Bros. BBQ—Philadelphia Street Indiana, PA

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 30 at the Mitchell Bros. BBQ on Philadelphia St., in Indiana. Cost is \$9.00 per person for a buffet of Broasted Chicken or Vegetarian Lasagna, Tossed Salad, and Carrot Cake. We will start eating at 6:30 p.m.

Our guest speaker for this event is Robert Beggs from the Geography and Regional Studies Department at IUP. He will be speaking on immigration issues. The title of his talk is "Immigration, Rhetoric and Reality".

We will also be electing a President, Secretary, and several board members, approving our annual budget, and approving our program items

for next year.

This is always one of the most pleasant meetings of the year with time to talk and relax before heading into our summer schedules.

Contact Aida Shotts to reserve a space by May 25. Her phone number is: 724-354-3482, or you can email her at: ashotts@alltel.net

Hope to see you there!!

"The universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession."

Mark
Twain



Did you know?....

LWWIC is proud to be a sponsor of the **Indiana County Envirothon** this year (May 2 at Blue Spruce Park.) Through competition and education, the Envirothon provides future generations with the ability to be better equipped to address the complex natural resource concerns facing today's world as well as the challenges of tomorrow. Winners of county competitions head to the PA Envirothon at Penn State May 21-22. For more info visit: <http://www.envirothonpa.org/>



ANNUAL GARAGE SALE COMING UP!

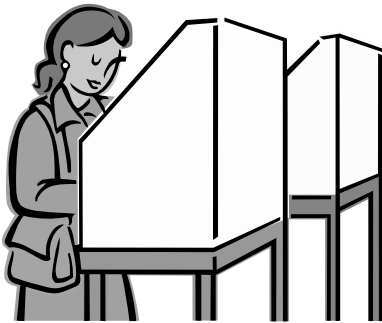
The LWVIC's biggest and most important fund raiser every year is our annual garage sale. It gives us the opportunity to rid our houses of useable clutter and funds most of our annual budget. We hold the garage sale on a Saturday in May and sell the leftovers the next Saturday in a bag sale. Anything left goes to Goodwill. Diane Duntley caters lunch on the sale days.

This year, the sale will be on May 5 with the bag sale on May 12. Again this year, Susan McClure is donating the use of her garage across from her house at 527 Shryock Avenue in Indiana. It takes a great deal of work to set up the sale every year. The work is made easier because numerous members donate some time the week before the sale to do it. Beginning April 30 through May 4 we will be working every morning from 9:00 a.m. until noon at the site to do the set-up work. Of course, volunteers are also needed on the sale days. All members are welcome and urged to give some time to this effort. No need to be there every day. Pick the one most convenient to your schedule. To volunteer contact either Susan McClure at 724-463-8252, email: dandsmclure@verizon.net, or Olga Platt at 724-465-2073, email: epop325@comcast.net.

Of course, it is equally important to donate your left over clutter! We sell everything including books, clothing, furniture, and anything useable. You can drop it off during the set-up hours the week before the sale or contact Sherene Hess to make arrangements to drop it off at other times.

PRIMARY VOTERS GUIDE

The LWVIC will be publishing a voters guide for the primary election on May 15 on its website. The voters guide will contain a list of candidates for school board in every school district in Indiana County. That is a total of 45 school board candi-



dates. We are asking every candidate to respond to 4 questions about school issues. The replies will be on the website. You can see the questions on page 3.

In addition, we will have the tax referendum question for every school district in the county. Each will be slightly different depending on what option the district decided to submit to its residents. These referenda will determine how each district's taxes will be changed for the future, either shifting some of the taxes to an income tax, or

SOME THOUGHTS ON THIS PRIMARY

It is somewhat troubling that one of the most important issues in recent years will be resolved at what is the worst attended election in our election cycle. This year only local offices are on the ballot and in the primary there are very few contested elections. As a result, this election traditionally has extremely low voter turnout, usually well below 40%. that turnout is even worse when you consider that only about 50% of the eligible voters actually register to vote. The funding of our schools could be dramatically changed based on the votes of a very small percentage of school district residents.



INDIANA SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES NIGHT

Sponsored by

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

And moderated by

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of INDIANA COUNTY

The American Association of University Women Indiana Chapter (AAUW) and the League of Women Voters of Indiana County (LWVIC) invite all residents of the Indiana Area School District and those interested to attend **Candidates Night, Thursday**

May 10 beginning at 7 pm. The forum will be held at the **Indiana Area Junior High Auditorium** and will be broadcast live on radio stations WDAD and WCCS. This is a public event and there is no charge to attend. Please spread the news. The purpose of the forum is to educate citizens on the role of a school board member and to help Indiana area voters make informed decisions at the polls on May 15.

Primary Voters Guide:

All school board candidates received the opportunity to respond to these questions:

QUESTION 1: What in your background, training and experience qualifies you to be an effective school board member?

QUESTION 2: There is some concern that the No Child Left Behind focus on testing in reading, math, and science leaves scant time and attention for other impor-

tant goals of public education. What other areas do you think are important to emphasize so that our children grow to become healthy, responsible and productive citizens?

QUESTION 3: The PA School Boards Association Standards for Effective School Governance state that school boards govern by reviewing, revising and adopting board policy and delegate to the superintendent responsibility for implementation of board pol-

icy. Do you agree with this statement? Why, or why not?

QUESTION 4: Much of the burden of paying for public education falls on local taxpayers. Under Act 1 (2006) school districts may not raise their tax rates above a state-determined index without voter approval-- the "back-end" referendum. In what areas do you think funding could be decreased or even eliminated to balance the school budget and stay below the index?

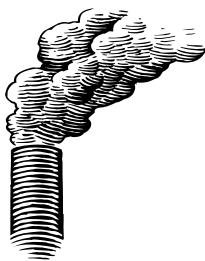


AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Air Quality Committee is designing a pilot project for its "Stop Idling" Campaign. The League will sponsor a Poster contest at East Pike Elementary School. The theme will be **Stop Idling while waiting for students at the school**. The posters will be displayed in the main hallway.

The Committee continues to push for an additional air quality monitor for Indiana County. They hope to get a monitor closer to the population centers of the county which tests for pollutants which fall closer to the plants which

emit them, for example, mercury.



We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. ~Native American Proverb

A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
of Indiana County,
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UPCOMING CALENDAR



Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let Olga Platt know at 724-465-2073 and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

- March 27— Education Committee Meeting 1:30 p.m.
Diane Duntley's home, 204 Greenview Court
- April 11— Board Meeting—11:30 a.m.—Diane Duntley's home (all members welcome)
- April 30— May 4—Set-up for Garage Sale 9:00 a.m. to noon
all welcome
- May 2— Indiana Co Envirothon, Blue Spruce Pk, 9-1:45 pm
- May 5— Garage Sale 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Susan McClure's Garage, 527 Shryock Ave.
- May 10— Indiana School Board Candidates Night (see info in
body of newsletter)
- May 12— Bag Sale—Susan McClure's Garage—same time
as garage sale
- May 30 — LWVIC Annual Meeting—Mitchell Bros. BBQ, 6:30
p.m., Philadelphia Street, Indiana