

VOTER

League of Women Voters of
Indiana County, Pennsylvania
www.palwv.org/indiana



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SPECIAL FOR EDUCATION ISSUES ENTHUSIASTS

2010 Education Issues Workshops: A Non-Partisan One-Day Program for Pennsylvania Legislative Candidates, Campaign Staff and Interested Voters conducted by Ron Cowell, President of EPLC.

Monday, March 15—Harrisburg

Wednesday, March 17—Valley Forge

Friday, March 26—Monroeville

Sponsored by The Education Policy and Leadership Center

Agenda & Registration at: <http://www.epic.org/candidateworkshop.html>

Cost is \$89 for materials and lunch. Space is limited.

Learn more about these important education issues:

- Governance of Public Education
- Intersection of Local, State, Federal Policy
- State Education Policy Levers
- Overview of Budget and Revenue Issues
- Early Childhood Education
- Evaluating Schools and Student Performance
- Teacher Quality and Supply
- School Boards and Superintendents
- School District Consolidation
- School Choice, Charter Schools and Cyber Schools
- Higher Education Governance, Funding and Access

Census Update

2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour

When: Tuesday, March 16, 2010, Noon to 5:00 pm

Where: Pratt Drive, in front of the Hadley Union Building

The 2010 Census Portrait of America Road Tour is scheduled to arrive here in Indiana County on March 16. Having kicked off their cross-country road tour in New York City in January, representatives of the U.S. Census Bureau plan to appear at more than 800 events nationwide. Their goal—and ours—is a complete count!

On March 15, every household in the country will receive a census form. Although the form is described as “quick and easy,” applying questions to specific situations can be confusing. Indiana residents can take their questions about the form to trained Census Bureau representatives at various questionnaire Assistance Centers, which will be set up around the county. Such centers are planned for the Indiana Library, the Indiana Mall, and the IUP HUB. (continued p.2)

Census Update continued -

More than \$400 billion in federal funds are awarded to states and communities every year based on census data. The federal government uses census data to allocate funding for programs that impact key infrastructure improvements, road construction, workforce development, and educational programs, in addition to programs for our most vulnerable residents. Thus, the results of the census will shape the future of our county as well as of our country.

The best way to support the complete count effort is to spread the word!



Family Fun Fest

The Family Fun Fest, sponsored by the Human Resources Agencies of Indiana County, will be held on March 20 at the Indiana Mall from 10 am to 3 pm. The theme this year is getting children involved in the outdoors in many different ways. The League will have a booth at this event and our theme will be children writing letters to local leaders about the environment.

We will need volunteers to man the booth in two hour shifts beginning with set up at 9:00 am. Contact Beth Marshall, 724 479-9556 or nextlife@comcast.net to volunteer.

We all know that it is important to reconnect our children with the outdoors, for their own health and for the health of our nation. Come and be part of this worth event for a few hours.

For Those Interested

The Three Rivers Community Foundation will hold a **Regional Mini-Summit on Social Change** on Saturday, April 17 for Indiana and Armstrong Counties at Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Campus, at the HUB (Hadley Union Building) from 9:00 am—4:00 pm.

Contact: trcf@trcf.net for more information

First Call for League Garage Sale

The LWVIC will be having its annual garage sale on May 1 from 8:30 am to 4 pm. This is the primary fund raiser for all our projects. This year our funds paid for many of the costs of the state-wide Marcellus Shale study. How many groups are able to fund major public policy initiatives through garage sales?

The sale will be at Susan McClure's garage across the street from 527 Shryock Ave. On May 8, we will conduct a bag sale to reduce the amount of leftovers. Volunteers are needed every morning of the week before May to accept donations and set up the sale. This is a fun job, in fact, and volunteers get the first look at the merchandise.

SO, start collecting your unwanted items and think about volunteering some time. More about this event next month.

EPA Reopens A Study of Herbicide Atrazine

Atrazine is a very widely used agricultural herbicide especially important in no-till planting of corn and other commodities. According to an article in the February 27, 2010, issue of Science News, the EPA is planning a new review of the data relating to the safety of the chemical. Science News, published by the Society for Science and the Public, states that a new review of published studies has shown some serious concerns relating to the herbicide's potential to provoke hormonal disturbances in test animals which can result in birth defects and impaired reproduction. There have also been some studies in which higher levels of atrazine in water supplies seem to correlate to higher rates of birth defects in humans.

This is important because atrazine, in at least low levels, is present in virtually all drinking water supplies in areas where it is used in agriculture. The highest levels are in the middle of the country where it can regularly exceed the EPA's allowed maximum of 3 ppb.

Atrazine has been banned in Europe since 2004. In April, 2006, our EPA decided to reregister the chemical for use here and said that there was a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to the general US population or any subgroups of consumers. New data studies have resulted in it's reopening the issue. If anyone wants to read the original article, Beth Marshall has it available.

LWVIC TESTIFIES BEFORE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

The LWVIC has been invited to testify at the public hearing of the Republican House Policy Committee on April 7. The hearing starts at 10 am and is open to the public. Representative David Reed invited the League to speak on the environmental and water quality issues that it studied as part of the Marcellus Shale Drilling project. The hearing will be at the Senior Citizens Center at Oak Place in Indiana and all members who can do so are urged to attend.

FACTCHECK.ORG LAUNCHES PODCAST

Factcheck.org, the website which looks at political ads and spins and points out miss-statements, is launching a pod cast. It will occur on an occasional basis. The first one "features a look at the factual malpractice that took place during the president's nearly daylong health care summit." The address is: <http://factcheck.org/>.

Factcheck.org is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 - Board Meeting—7:00 pm

March 16—Census Road Tour—Pratt Drive, Noon to 5:00 pm

March 19—Legislative Interview with Sen. Don White—9:30 am, Eat 'n Park Restaurant, Indiana

March 20— Family Fun Fest, Spring Fling, Indiana Mall

April 7—Republican Policy Committee Hearing, Senior Citizens Center, Oak Place. 10:00 am

April 12—Board Meeting—7:00 pm

April 17—Mini Summit on Social Change— IUP—HUB, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

May 1—Garage Sale—Susan McClure's garage

May 8—Bag Sale—Susan McClure's garage

May 10—Board Meeting—7:00 pm

May 18—Primary Election

BOARD MEETINGS—held at Diane Duntley's home, 204 Greenview Court, Indiana —All Members Welcome

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-465-5056 and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.