

# VOTER

League of Women Voters of  
Indiana County, Pennsylvania  
[www.palwv.org/indiana](http://www.palwv.org/indiana)



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LWVIC Board of Directors, 2009-2010

Sherene Hess, President,  
724 465-5056

Beth Marshall, V. President,  
724-465-8974

Sandy Whitson, Treasurer,  
724 463-7205

Ann Rea, Secretary,  
724-465-5796

Stephanie Chandler

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Nancy Fricke

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Jane Lord

Carol Maderer

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Cindy Rogers

Karen Ross

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Mary Beth Sweeney

## NEW STATE STUDY MARCELLUS SHALE NATURAL GAS EXTRACTION

visit: <http://www.palwv.org/issues/MarcellusShaleStudy.html> for more info

Delegates at the **2009 LWVPA State Convention** unanimously adopted a new study: **Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Extraction**. The Study will examine the benefits and costs of Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction including its ramifications for Pennsylvania's water, air, infrastructure, agriculture, forests, tourism, and economy.

Study topics will include, but are not limited to:

1. Background of Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction.
2. Costs to state and local governments.
3. Economic benefits.
4. Negative and positive impacts on landowners.
5. Regulatory issues
6. Air, water, and land use impacts.
7. Pros and cons of severance tax on nonrenewable resources.

### WHY THIS STUDY IS IMPORTANT—WHY EVERY LEAGUE SHOULD PARTICIPATE

**Marcellus Shale**, a rock formation lying approximately a mile underground under two-thirds of Pennsylvania, contains the largest natural gas reserve in the United States. Pennsylvanians will be affected whether they live over the shale or have the natural gas pipelines running through their counties. Each well will use one to nine million gallons of pressurized water and chemicals to break up the shale and release the gas. Thousands of jobs will be created. Money will be spent and earned. **The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania** wants to be part of the conversation, but first we need to study the issues and join in consensus.

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## PLAN FOR THE STUDY

The study kit will be available on the PA website. The study materials will come in two parts:

- **Part I**, to be available in **September**, will focus on the extraction process and the environmental impact.
- **Part II**, to be available in **October** will focus on the economic/tax issues and include the consensus questions.

Leading the Marcellus Shale study will be the Indiana County League of Women Voters. LWVIC will hold at least two member meetings on Marcellus Shale issues. The deadline for local league consensus results is March 26, 2010.

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## PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR LWVIC MEMBERS

We invite all our members to participate in our activities. There are several ways you can join in the fun.

We need volunteers to work at the LWVIC table at the IUP, 2009 festival on September 19 at the courtyard at the new residence halls. They will hand out information on the League, sign up students who might be interested in forming a university based unit of the LWV, and register voters. There will be two shifts, 1:00 to 3:00 pm and 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Contact Sherene Hess at [lwvic@yourinter.net](mailto:lwvic@yourinter.net) to volunteer.

The Environmental Issues Committee always needs members. At the moment, the committee is leading a state-level study on Marcellus shale gas well issues for the LWVPA. They are putting together the study kits and the consensus questions. They also follow air quality issues, especially mercury emissions questions and the bus and truck anti-idling campaign. Contact Mary Beth Sweeney at [mary.beth.sweeney25@gmail.com](mailto:mary.beth.sweeney25@gmail.com) or Clarice Reber at [ckreber@verizon.net](mailto:ckreber@verizon.net) to join the committee.

Diane Duntley and the Civic Participation Committee is exploring the possibility of starting an IUP unit of the LWV. If there is interest among

the students, we will need mentors and organizers. Contact Diane at [diane.duntley@gmail.com](mailto:diane.duntley@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.

Pepita Jimenez-Jacobs chairs the Child Advocacy Committee. That committee follows children's issues like child care and health care for children. They also represent the LWVIC at the Stand for Children event and the Family Fun Fest in the spring. Contact Pepita at [pepita-jimenezjacobs3@gmail.com](mailto:pepita-jimenezjacobs3@gmail.com) for further information.

Finally, the LWVIC encourages its members to attend local municipal meetings and take note of what is going on. School Boards are particularly important right now, but the County Commissioner meetings and municipal authority boards, like the Transit Authority and ICMSA are all open to the public and important to the community. The observer files occasional reports for the Voter and brings matters of urgent interest to the attention of the Board. Contact Sherene Hess at [lwvic@yourinter.net](mailto:lwvic@yourinter.net) to sign up for the observer corps.

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### FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY

The LWVIC Board has decided to participate in the Bon Ton community day promotion this fall. The League will sell coupon booklets for \$5.00. They contain discount coupons for Bon Ton merchandise and are good for one specific day, November 14. The League keeps these proceeds. In addition, the user can designate the community group they want to support on that day and part of the proceeds of the sales will also go to the League. Not only does this provide some extra dollars for the League's voter education and advocacy activities, it gives the League some visibility in the community. And it supports a local retailer! Contact Sherene Hess at 465-5056 to buy booklets.

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### A LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IUP?

We have recently become interested doing systematic outreach to IUP students. As the future of our country, they have a unique and valuable perspective on current events both on and off campus. The League has been promoting public participation in public policy making for nine decades. We have trained thousands of citizens to take leadership roles in their communities. It seems a natural association.

Our immediate goal is to help students organize a student chapter of the LWV on campus. The members would encourage student voter registration and organize other League activities on campus. There is only one other student chapter in the United States. We would be breaking new ground in many ways.

Of course, new blood is good for any organization and we believe working with students would be good for the LWVIC also.

We will be exploring the possibilities on September 19 when we attend the IUP Day, 2009, festival on campus. As always we welcome help from our members on this project.

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### DO YOU WANT TO GET YOUR VOTER VIA EMAIL?

We have decided to send our newsletter via email to those members who wish to receive it that way. Please contact Jo Anne Ferraro at [jofer68@yourinter.net](mailto:jofer68@yourinter.net) if you want to get the Voter sent directly to your computer. Those who want to continue to get a paper copy will continue to do so.

A newsletter of the  
League of Women Voters  
of Indiana County,  
Pennsylvania  
PO Box 672  
Indiana, PA 15701

Phone: 724 465-5056  
Email: lwvic@yourinter.net



### CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 10**—Board Meeting, 7:00 pm Diane Duntley's home. All Welcome

**September 10**—Human Services Council Breakfast, 8:30 am, Aging Services

**September 12**—LWVPA Membership Training, Harrisburg

**September 17**—Environment Issues Committee meeting, 7:00 pm, Clarice Reber's home, 1235 Oak Street, Indiana

**September 19**—IUP Day, 2009, Courtyard at the New Residence Halls, IUP, 1:00 to 6:00 pm

**October 5**—Last Day to register to vote for the Fall Election

**October 12**—Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Diane Duntley's home. All 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.