

VOTER



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

Volume XXVI Issue 34
April 2006

LWVIC Board
of Directors,
2005-2006

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724 463-7205

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724 465-5796

Diane Duntley

Joanne Ferraro

Jane Lord

Beth Marshall

Olga Platt

Clarice Reber

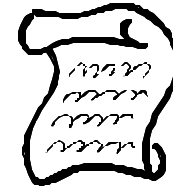
Aida Shotts

***How should candidates get onto the PA Ballot?
Ballot Access Concurrence
Thursday, April 20 at 7 p.m.
Diane Duntley's home at 204 Greenview Court***

LWVIC Ballot Access Committee will be presenting material related to how parties get on the ballot and will be asking LWVIC members if they concur with the Centre County position which is as follows:

- 1. The PA Election Code should be made available for downloading on the PA Government Web site.**
- 2. A minor party candidate is to submit the same number of signatures on their petition as required for a major party candidate.**
- 3. When an objection is filed to the nomination of a candidate, in regard to signature irregularities, all candidates for that office will have their petitions reviewed by the appropriate election board.**

For more info on Centre County's position see: Centre County Ballot Access Study.rtf. We will be considering their recommendations for changes to the Pennsylvania Election Law.



LEAGUE LINGO

CONCURRENCE - Substantial member agreement preferably reached through group discussion based on information presented by a study committee or through other methods of member response. Members are asked to concur, or agree with, a statement rather than to answer a question as with consensus. A concurrence statement may be a position held by another League or a decision statement recommended by a League board or study committee. Statement must be approved or rejected as written.

CONSENSUS - Substantial member agreement preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. Discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS - Specific questions prepared by a study committee to stimulate interaction, focus discussion and facilitate conclusions by the group. Questions vary in style from open-ended to multiple choice. Questions are approved by the appropriate League board.

Next Board Meeting of LWVIC:

**Thurs. April 20th
6:30 p.m. at Diane
Duntley's home
204 Greenview Ct.
724-349-2718**

**All members and
guests are welcome**

Voter's Guide to the Democratic and Republican candidates in the Primary Election are at <http://palwv.org/voting/vg.html>

Paper Trail of Ballots to Continue in Indiana County

Indiana County will be one of the few counties in Pennsylvania to have a **voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT)** in upcoming elections. Many voter concerns were expressed in local public hearings about challenges to Direct Recording Electronic voting machines (DRE's) data. The county commissioners chose to continue the current optical scan voting system — with the addition of optical scanners for precincts so that voters can review their ballots for under or over votes (thereby meeting Help America Vote Act requirements). Automark DRE machines will be purchased by the fall election to accommodate handicap accessibility thereby meeting this HAVA requirement. Temporary DRE machines will be available for the primary but those with a handicap may wish to continue having someone assist them for this election to ensure a paper record of their ballot. As counties across Pennsylvania deal with challenges to outcomes from varying choices of DRE's in the upcoming elections, the leadership of Indiana County may be proven to have chosen very wisely.

2006 PA Election Calendar

April 17—Last day to register before Primary

May 9—Last day to apply for absentee ballots

May 12—Date that absentee ballots must be returned

May 16-Primary Election

Vote May 16th



Air Quality Committee: Progress Report: School Bus Idling Policies

Members of the Air Quality Committee met with Mr. Michael Travis, Transportation/Safety Supervisor of the Indiana Area School District recently as follow up to our school bus idling policy phone survey. We chose to start with Indiana Area School District because it had no formal idling policy and because several of the committee members had children in this school district giving us “interested citizen” credibility.

Why are we interested in Stop Idling Policies? Indiana County ranks at the 80th percentile in the nation (622nd out of 3,109) for diesel soot emissions. * This is high for a rural county. Children are more at risk for health problems from diesel emissions. We save money when we run engines for shorter periods of time, both in terms of engine wear and tear and fuel consumption.

Information learned included:

- The school district contracts with Krise Bus Company for equipment and drivers. It is part of the ARIN fuel consortium, which will be switching to the new low sulphur diesel fuel “later this year.”
- The Indiana Area School Bus fleet has an average age of 5 years. They require the company to replace 10% of the buses each year.
- All buses acquired after 2007 will be clean diesel

buses as required by law. At this rate, all buses will be clean burning engines by 2017.

- Newer buses drive the longer routes. The bus queuing area was changed at the Junior High School to eliminate idling near the air intake.

We explained our interest in a "Stop Idling" campaign. Mr. Travis was very amenable to considering the health concerns, but was also clearly very interested in the financial savings arising from a “Stop Idling Bus” policy. He also seemed to like the idea of some positive publicity about a "Stop Idling" campaign. We agreed to mutually support each other with information exchange regarding anti-idling policies, location of training tapes for bus drivers, and watch for grant opportunities to retrofit older buses with clean air technologies. We offered to help write grants if any appeared, to present the benefits of a stop idling policy to the school board, and to help with a “stop idling” publicity campaign.

We left believing our meeting was very cordial and productive. We'll keep you posted on progress.

*Clean Air Task Force,
www.Catf.us/projects/diesel/dieselhealth/county.php?c=42063&site=3



Let There Be Peace A Community Peacebuilding Event

Held in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month

Located in the Indiana Mall

Opening Ceremony
Saturday, April 22, 2006

Exhibits Open:

Friday, April 21 5:00PM to 9:00PM
Saturday, April 22 12:00PM to 8:00PM
Sunday, April 23 12:00PM to 4:00PM

Sponsored by Center for Family Life, Inc &
many other child serving organizations



Organic & Fairly Traded Coffee LWVIC Fundraiser

Something new is the organic Sisters Blend, which is a special blend honoring women around the world: women coffee farmers who are active participants and leaders in their cooperatives and Lutheran women in the U.S. who are active advocates for Fair Trade. The coffee in this blend, which is a Full City Roast, is grown by small-scale farmers in Nicaragua and Peru and has a rich, smooth flavor and a sweet finish. The price is \$10 per 1 lb bag. For more information about what is available, contact Ann Rea at ann.rea@verizon.net or 465-5796.

Time for Spring Cleaning

Bring tranquility into your life by recycling your surplus possessions. Offer to collect surpluses from neighbors and friends. Lots of good "stuff" is needed for the annual garage sale—the League's only fund raiser.

What can you contribute? We need many things to sell, including big items like furniture, and smaller items like clothes, toys, household goods, tools, books and more. For **BIG items** (items too big to transport), please provide a picture—we sold a bedroom suite, a dining room set, and a freezer this way last year. If you want to get rid of it, bring it to 527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana, during the first week in May. You may stay to organize or to return on Saturday morning about 7:30 a.m. to sell.

We need clothing racks and/or strong pipes to hang clothes on as well as hangers and card tables. Please make sure the garments are clean. If they are dry-clean-only, leave the dry cleaner's tags in the garment.

Board members have been asked to bring a non-board member to help. If you are asked, please say yes. If you aren't called, consider this article **YOUR call to help**. Call Sandy Whitson at 724-463-7205 or Olga Platt at 724-465-2973 to sign up for a time or call Susan McClure at 724-463-8252 after April 29.



**Annual Garage Sale
Saturday, May 6,
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

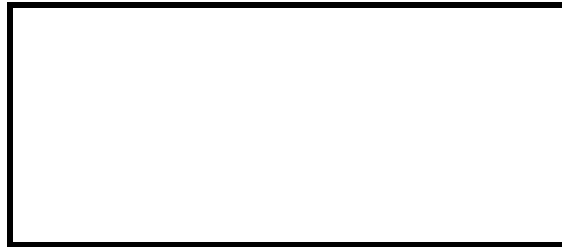
**McClure Home
at 527 Shryock Ave
Indiana**

Bag Sale on May 14

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

Phone: 724 465-2595
Email: lwwic@yourinter.net

We're on the Web!
www.palwv.org/
Indiana



***Openness
in Government***

**LWWIC Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 18
Hoss's Restaurant
Program at 7:30 p.m.**

***Dr. David O. Loomis
IUP Journalism Department***

***Will Kennedy
Executive Editor, Indiana Gazette***

**RSVP by May 16
Diane Duntley 724-349-2718/
d.duntley@gmail.com**

Looking for Sunshine: Protecting Your Right to Know

Raising awareness about the growing amount of information being withheld at all levels of government is the topic of the Program for **LWWIC's Annual Meeting, May 18, 2006**. Professor David O. Loomis of IUP's Journalism Department, and Will Kennedy, Executive Editor of the Indiana Gazette will speak about your right to examine records and documents and to your right to observe – and participate in – your government's decision-making processes.

The League of Women Voters has been a champion of open government through our history, supporting various federal legislative initiatives to expand open government and fighting proposals that limit access to information. You can read about the League's latest publication on open government at:
[http://www.lww.org/Content/ContentGroups/Projects/Openness in Government/40404_LWV_LoRes.pdf](http://www.lww.org/Content/ContentGroups/Projects/Openness%20in%20Government/40404_LWV_LoRes.pdf)

In the words of Helen Thomas, former White House Bureau Chief, "In reality, the media and citizens' groups have fought long and hard to gain access to government records and meetings. Experience has taught us that open government is a "use it or lose it" proposition. Unless we continue to assert our right, the public's right of access, we will lose it." Find additional information about our sunshine laws and access to public records at <http://www.sunshineweek.org>.

We will assemble in the large meeting room at Hoss's Restaurant on Wayne Avenue at **5:45 PM** in preparation for meal orders to be taken at 6:00 PM. The **Program will begin at 7:30**, following a short business meeting which will include nomination of officers and board members for 2006-2008. We hope you will join us and bring a friend interested in the League.

League of Women Voters of Indiana County
Proposed Budget
July 1, 2006-June 30, 2007

	2006-2007	2005-2006	Actual as of 30-Mar-06
I. REGULAR INCOME:			
A. Dues(56 members @ \$50)	\$2,800.00	\$2,350.00	\$1,800.00
B. Contributions			\$1,750.00
1. Member	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$210.00
2. Non-Members	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
3. Projects/Other Sources	\$1,700.00	\$1,510.00	\$233.00
C. Interest			\$3.37
TOTAL INCOME:	\$5,100.00	\$4,460.00	\$4,196.37
II. Expenditures:			
A. General Administration:			
1. President	\$25.00	\$25.00	
2. Board Tools/Expenses	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$19.00
3. Administrative Committees			
a. Membership	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$81.08
b. Publicity	\$40.00	\$40.00	
4. Operating Costs			
a. General Supplies	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$22.85
b. Insurance	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$123.50
c. Web Page	\$450.00	\$350.00	\$301.25
B. Delegates/Travel			
1. State/National Conventions	\$400.00	\$400.00	
2. Workshops	\$100.00	\$100.00	
3. Annual Meeting(local)	\$30.00	\$30.00	
C. Financial Support(PMP)			
1. National \$23.80/member	\$1,331.00	\$1,119.00	\$799.50
2. State \$18/member	\$1,008.00	\$846.00	\$617.66
D. Programs and Activities			
1. Publication Purchases	\$100.00	\$100.00	
2. Bulletin			
a. Supplies	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$64.30
b. Postage	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$76.00
3. Voters Service	\$400.00	\$350.00	\$321.74
4. Action			
a. Legislative Interviews	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$6.93
b. Action	\$25.00	\$100.00	
E. Committees			
1. Air Quality	\$100.00		
2. Diversity	\$100.00		
3. Education	\$100.00	\$200.00	
4. Human Services Action	\$100.00		
5. Other Programs	\$100.00		
F. Misc/Scholarship	\$66.00	\$75.00	\$132.00
G. Donations			\$75.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$5,100.00	\$4,460.00	\$2,640.81

III. Restricted Accounts:

1. Phi Delta Kappa	\$1,750.00
2. LWV-US Education Fund	\$72.00

Savings Account: \$1,031.99
Checking Account: \$3,730.73

Bringing this budget along to the Annual Meeting saves trees!

LWVIC Slate of Officers 2006—2008 Recommendations for Annual Meeting

Vice President: Nancy Fricke
Treasurer: Sandy Whitson
Board Members: Diane Duntley
 Joanne Ferraro
 Jane Lord
 Beth Marshall
 Clarice Reber

The above slate of officers have agreed to be renominated for a two year term for the positions currently held. Additional nominations may be forthcoming.

Elected at last Annual Meeting for 2005-2007:

President: Sherene Hess
Secretary: Ann Rea
Board Members: Aida Shotts
 Olga Platt
 Edwina Vold (later resigned)

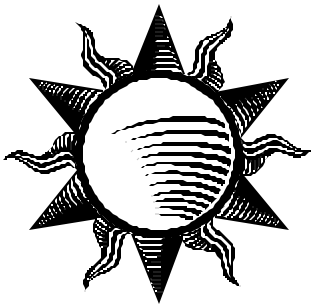


Become active. Join a committee.
Here are three current possibilities:

Education Committee: Nancy Fricke,
nfricke@yourinter.net or 465-5036

Air Quality Committee: Ann Rea,
ann.rea@verizon.net or 465-5796

Civic Participation Committee: Diane
Duntley, diane.duntley@gmail.com or
724-349-2718



Getting Beyond Ten Percent: PennFuture's Annual Clean Energy Conference

Thursday, May 25, 2006
 Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and
 Convention Center in Camp Hill
[http://www.pennfuture.org/docs/
 agenda05_25_06.pdf](http://www.pennfuture.org/docs/agenda05_25_06.pdf)

Help determine the future of
renewable energy in PA!

Education Committee Priorities:

- ◆ Promote the adoption of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Code of Conduct by the boards of all school districts in the Indiana County. The code has been adopted by some but not all district boards. Boards would be encouraged to study the code and pass a resolution adopting the code as its standard of operations.
- ◆ Prepare an article about the important role of and challenges in serving as school director for possible "As I See It" column or posting on our WEB site.
- ◆ Partner to offer a school board candidate training workshop by Ron Cowell of the Education Policy and Leadership Center next winter 2007 to broaden the range of possible candidates. Emphasis would be on the rural school districts.
- ◆ **Recruit Observers for the Indiana School Board meetings** (meets on the second Monday of each month). Reactivate the Observer Corps League tradition. Observations would review the implementation of PSBA standards of conduct. **Contact Sherene at 465-2595 or lwvic@yourinter.net if you are interested.**