

VOTER

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



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2008

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SAVE THE DATE! Indiana County League of Women Voter's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Blue Spruce Park

(covered dish)

CURRENT HAPPENINGS:

Legislative Interview Questions

1. **Congressional and Legislative Redistricting** – Will you actively support amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to require an independent commission comprised of individuals not currently employed by local, state, or federal government, to redistrict both legislative and congressional districts after the decennial census? Why or why not?
2. **Judicial Selection** – Would you actively support an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution providing for a merit selection process for selecting statewide judges? Why or why not?
3. **Education Funding** – Do you support legislation that would establish a realistic minimum level of expenditures for all school districts? How do you believe such an expenditure level

Legislative Interviews- Have Breakfast or Lunch with your State Legislators

Once a year, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania asks its local Leagues to interview the state legislators about state level issues. The State League formulates questions about several state issues on which it intends to lobby. The local League sets up the interviews during the month of February at times convenient to it and its state representatives and senators. The Local Leagues send reports on the interviews to the state office to help them determine their lobbying strategies. Here in Indiana we usually treat our legislators to breakfast or lunch and spend several hours discussing the LWVPA questions and occasionally some local issues as well.

All members are welcome at these meetings. We are presently making arrangements for the interviews and will be sending out email notices about the dates, times and place. We met with Dave Reed on January 25th. Our interview with Jeff Pyle was scheduled for February 1, but due to bad weather, we had to cancel it. If we can reschedule this interview, we will contact members as to the date, time and location. We will be meeting with Don White on Friday, February 29, 2008 at noon at Eat'n Park.

Plan to attend these meetings if you can. They are a pleasant way to remind our legislators that we are interested in state as well as local issues and are always very informative.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY FOR VOTER PROTECTION PROJECT

To make sure all eligible voters are heard on Election Day, the LWVUS has adopted five core areas of election administration reform being carried out through the **Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Project** and other national efforts. They are:

- a.. Opposing ID and documentary proof-of-citizenship requirements
- b.. Enhancing administration of statewide voter registration databases and guarding against wrongful or incorrect purging
- c.. Protecting voters against unnecessary restrictions on voter registration
- d.. Improving poll worker recruitment, training and supervision
- e.. Strengthening polling place management and ballot design

The Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the United States along with the Leagues of Maryland, Virginia, and the National Capitol Area, have put together a Voters Guide for the Presidential Primaries. The guide is available from the internet at VOTE411.org.

The guide was compiled from written replies to questions from the candidates who met the League criteria before the publishing deadline. These include: Democrats Biden, Clinton, Edwards, Obama and Richardson and Republicans Giuliani, McCain, Paul, Tancredo, and Thompson. Candidates Dodd and Romney were invited to take part and chose not to.

There is one major hole in the Guide. Former Ark. Governor Huckabee is not included in the guide. He apparently did not meet the criteria when the Guide was being compiled. This is an example of how quickly things have changed in this presidential campaign. Nevertheless, the Guide contains some useful and interesting information on most of the current candidates. It is well worth a visit.

There is too much at stake in this election for citizens to sit back and not make their voices heard. The League is working tirelessly to ensure every eligible citizen can participate in this critical election year and make an informed decision on Election Day.

LWVUS is asking you to do your part to help strengthen the state of our union even more - stay informed with the League and get involved in this historic election!



THE CIVIC PROJECT—IUP and LWWIC

Students from IUP Professor Dave Loomis' journalism class collaborated with LWWIC this fall to produce **The Civic Project**. The project demonstrates how providing citizens with timely, important and useful information about issues of concern such as air quality, public school performance, and access to public records, can empower citizens to solve community problems.

The stories reflect independent reporting and do not advocate a position. The League did not edit the material in any way. Except for sharing with the students the issues that we are currently study-

ing, LWWIC did not influence the reporting in any way.

Read each story in its entirety at our website at www.palwv.org/indiana:

1. [A lifetime in a coal-dusted shadow of Homer City's smokestacks](#) by Tim Bugaile
2. [A dropout's lessons learned at Indiana High School](#) by Sara Rising
3. [Indiana's cyber-school connection: Administrators question the financing](#) by Rachael Ward
4. [Indiana's cyber-school connection: A parent embraces the curriculum](#) by Corey Hess and Allie Margulies

LWWIC Garage Sale Coming Up

The Annual LWWIC Garage Sale is approaching. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and pays for most of our activities throughout the year. Its success depends on both donations and volunteer organizing activities. Here's the scoop:



When: May 3, 2008 from 8am to 1pm. The leftover sale is the following Saturday at the same time

and place.

Where: The McClure garage at 527 Shryock Ave.

What else?

- Items can be dropped off all week starting Monday, April 28 from 9am to 12. Members will be called to look for volunteers for set up, working during the sales, and for cleaning up after the Bag Sale on May 10.
- Clothing, books, and household items welcome.

- Many small items bring in a lot of money, but to meet our budget we need some big items, like furniture, also.
- If an item is too big to bring to the sale, like bedroom and dining room furniture, it can be sold by posting a picture on an easel in the garage. Discuss this option with Susan McClure.
- Please start saving your unwanted gently used items now for the sale!

LWWIC Completes Immigration Study and Participates in Consensus Process

On January 19, 2008, the Immigration Committee met to take consensus. Commissioner Dave Fricke accepted our invitation to join us as we discussed the LWWUS Immigration Study Consensus Questions. Our thanks to Gail Sechrist who recorded our responses to each question and compiled a consensus report, which can be accessed on our website at: <http://www.palwv.org/indiana/>. Follow the link to "Immigration Consensus Meeting Results" for the complete report.

Immigration Study Committee chair Susan McClure input our responses online to LWWUS by the February 1, 2008 deadline. Our league, along with hundreds of other leagues across the country, became a part of LWW history through the hard

work of preparing for and holding a consensus meeting. The LWWUS will formulate an official position on immigration which will allow the entire organization to lobby and affect policy for years to come.

Thus ends a two year study to get grassroots agreement on a complicated issue. The same arduous process accounts for all of the positions from which the League lobbies every day. You can read the League's position statements at www.lwv.org.

Studying the issues and taking consensus to reach a unified position is one of the League's greatest strengths; as Susan says, it is the heart of the League.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

February – Legislative Interviews with State Legislators.

February 14 –Board meeting at Diane Duntley's. Gather- 11:30, Meeting- Noon.

February 29—Legislative interview w/Sen Don White, Eat n Park 12 Noon

March 1 -Annual Family Fun Fest. 10:00 am. Indiana Mall

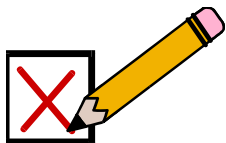
March 24 – Last day to register to vote before the primary.

April 22 – General Primary. Our legislature did not change the Presidential primary to an earlier date.

April 22 – League Annual Meeting – Blue Spruce Lodge in Blue Spruce Park. Save the date.

May 3 –League Garage Sale, Susan McClure's Garage. Save your stuff for this spring fundraiser.

May 10 – League Garage Sale wrap-up – Bag Sale.



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.

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.