

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Volume XXXI, Issue 4, April, 2013

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2012-13

Sherene Hess
President
724-465-5056

Beth Marshall
Vice President
724-465-8974

Ann Rea
Secretary
724-465-5796

Sandy Whitson
Treasurer
724-463-7205

Pepita Jimenez-Jacobs
Carol Maderer
Lea Masiello
Cindy Rogers
Karen Ross
Aida Shotts
Vicki Stelma,
Newsletter Editor
Dreama Van Cise-Watta

Volunteers Needed to Register Voters

This spring the LWVIC has organized three voter registration opportunities, but we need everyone's help to make them a success. So far, only one person has agreed to help. Registering voters and interacting with concerned citizens is an important part of our mission, and you don't need to be an expert to help with this. Please give an hour or two of your time this month.

Please consider helping out by volunteering to register voters at one of these drives:

Wednesday, April 10, Wyotech Blairsville, 11 am—1 pm, or 1 pm—3 pm, or 3 pm—4:30 pm

Saturday, April 13, Indiana Mall, 10 am—12 pm or 12 pm—2 pm

Monday, April 15, Indiana Free Library, 5:30 pm—8 pm

If you are available, email or call Karen Ross: ross.bert1@gmail.com or 724-349-0348.

LWVIC to Participate in Civic Literacy Program at Indiana Free Library

The LWVIC is providing an informational table at the Indiana Free Library on Monday, April 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm. As a part of National Library Week, the library is highlighting civic and social literacy. We will be there answering questions and helping citizens fill out voter registrations and absentee ballot applications.

Please consider supporting the Indiana Free Library and our League by attending this event. You can make it a complete "Civic Literacy" evening by first visiting the library then walking over to the Artists Hand Gallery & Coffee Shop and attending the LWVIC board meeting which begins at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

(See related article "Library to Host Civic Literacy Program" on page 3.)

**LWVIC nominee
Pepita Jimenez-
Jacobs**

**will be recognized at
the Leader's Circle
Female Civic Leader
Award dinner on
April 11 at 6:00 pm at
the Chestnut Ridge.
Contact Sherene
Hess if you would
like to attend.**

Apollo Memorial Library to Host Forums on Health Care

The Apollo Memorial Library (219 N. Pennsylvania Avenue) will be featuring a conversation series on health care that is free and open to the public.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or “Obamacare” as it’s more commonly known, brings real security for working families, seniors and small business when it comes to health care by making sure we all have affordable, quality choices and that insurance companies treat us fairly. The law stops insurance companies from denying us care or arbitrarily jacking up our rates; and it gives all of us the peace of mind that comes with knowing we’ll have coverage that’s there when we need it, at a price we can afford. But that doesn't mean it's a law that's easy to understand -- especially given the heated debate over the last few years. As we head toward 2014, when the law will be fully in place, it's really important for folks to have a solid understanding of how the law works and how it'll impact them and their loved ones so that they can take advantage of the new benefits and protections.

Outreach Coordinator Erin Ninehouser of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network will discuss the following topics:

Obamacare 101: What the New Health Care Law Means for You (April 16 at 6:30 pm)

What Happens When You Need Long Term Care in PA? (May 18 at 4:00 pm)

How Insurance Works: Understanding Your Coverage, Choices, and Care (June 12 at 6:30 pm)

New Park Space in Homer City Will Connect Visitors to Nature

In 2012, local agencies Evergreen Conservancy and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy partnered to build a public boat launch and parking lot along Two Lick Creek in Homer City to provide access to the waterway. Now Homer City Borough is interested in partnering with several local organizations to build a park to enhance this site and is applying to DCNR for funding.

Situated in Homer City along Two Lick Creek, the boat launch provides a prime access point to the waterway. If funded, the Borough will convert the site into a welcoming park and gathering space for Homer City and Indiana County residents to engage in low-impact outdoor activities. Plans for the site include the construction of a pavilion with two picnic tables and community garden plots. The site will also include stone flower beds lining the sidewalk, and to manage rainwater and runoff, the Borough will place two rain barrels (**donated by the LWVIC**) to catch runoff from the pavilion; the water collected in the barrels can be used for the community garden. These additions will complete the boat launch site, turning it into a welcoming community park and a more attractive gathering spot.

Annual Garage Sale to be Held

Our annual fundraiser will be held on **Saturday, May 4** (with the bag sale to follow on Saturday, May 11). **Start saving your donations.** Drop offs of donations at 527 Shryock Avenue will begin April 29 and continue through the week. **Volunteers are needed to set up during the week preceding the sale as well as to work the sale.** Call Susan McClure, 724-463-8252, to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE! LWVIC ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 14
Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station
(155 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)**

Environmental Issues Committee to Present at Convention

As an outcome of their study of chapters 8 and 11 of the Indiana County Comprehensive Plan, the Environmental Issues Committee of the LWVIC will be presenting the "Benefits of Land Use Planning" at the Indiana County Township Officials Convention on May 3 at the Rustic Lodge. We have purchased a display space and advertisement in the convention booklet.

A big thanks goes out to Malcolm Hermann for donating his professional services in formatting our advertisement. We couldn't have done it without him!

Library to Host Civic Literacy Program: Be an Informed Voter!

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of us all." John F. Kennedy

Though the Presidential election is over, the primaries are just around the corner. Do you know who is running? Are you registered to vote? Is the Voter ID law in effect? Where do you go to vote? As a part of National Library Week programming, the Indiana Free Library is proud to host a voter information open house on Monday, April 15 from 6-8 pm. Information on candidates, voting, political parties, and other general election topics will be provided. Members of local political parties and the League of Women Voters of Indiana County will be on hand to answer any questions, help with voter registration, and provide general election information. This event is free and open to the public.

This program focuses on the PA Libraries/PA Forward Civic & Social Literacy in the belief that libraries can give citizens of all ages the knowledge and skills they need to improve their lives, contribute effectively in their communities, and participate in civil discourse.

Communicating Effectively with Elected Officials

Thanks to the efforts of former PA House members Dave Levdansky (House District 39) and Carole Rubley (House District 157), PALWV has great tips for "Delivering the League Message." Check out http://www.palwv.org/files/387_DeliveringtheLeagueMessage.pdf for more information.

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

Phone: 724 465-5056
Email: lwwic@verizon.net



We're on the
Web!

www.palww.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 1, 2013—Deadline for nominations for the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award

Monday, April 15, 2013, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, The Artists Hand Gallery & Coffee Shop, (732 Philadelphia Street, Indiana)

Monday, April 22, 2013—Last day to register to vote before the primary

Saturday, May 4, 2013—LWVIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana) **(May 11, Bag Sale)**

Tuesday, May 14, 2013—LWVIC Annual Meeting, Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station (1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)

June 7, 8, 9, 2013—LWVPA Biennial Convention, Lewisburg

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-762-4162, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWVIC's activities.

Our Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.