

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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LWVIC Board of Directors, 2012-13

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Save the Date!

Member Potluck Dinner & Meeting Tuesday, January 29

Dinner at 5:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church
(285 Twolick Drive, Indiana)

Panel discussion regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
(PPACA) to follow at 7:00 pm

Passed into law in March, 2010 and upheld by the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in June of 2012, the **Affordable Care Act**, also known as Obamacare, represents the most significant regulatory overhaul of the US healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. Many questions exist about how it will affect business owners, their employees, the system of healthcare providers, and insurance companies. Panelists representing sectors affected by the law will address concerns and opportunities and take questions from attendees.

Bring a guest and a dish to share!

LWVIC Seeking Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is currently seeking nominations for the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award. This award was established last year to honor longtime Indiana County environmental activist Peggy Clark. The Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award recognizes grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment. It promotes citizens working within the system at the local level to make a change for a better world and will be awarded for the second time this spring.

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect our precious natural resources

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Nominating Committee Seeks You!

The LWVIC Nominating Committee is working now to develop a slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors beginning in July 2013.

YOU are our richest resource, and we are seeking the following to **help us accomplish our mission**:

Interested and interesting people
to do interesting and meaningful work;
to experience personal growth,
to exercise leadership skills; and,
to make meaningful contributions
to the League of Women Voters of Indiana County

You will be able to
Help to set the direction for the LWVIC
Influence policy and local program issues
Meet and learn from other League leaders
Build your leadership skills

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Continued from page 1 LWVIC Seeking Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

This leadership can take a variety of forms including but not limited to the following:

- New or innovative technology to prevent degradation of our environment
- Activities that show a direct positive effect on our environmental resources
- Activities of notable stewardship of the environment
- Activities that reduce pollution in order to protect our water, air and land
- Activities in particular that reduce water pollution from both point and non-point sources
- Development of policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity

Nominations can be submitted by citizens or groups, or individuals can self-nominate. The award will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Indiana County Annual Meeting in May, 2013.

The deadline for application submission is April 2013.

Contact Sherene Hess, President of the League of Women Voters of Indiana County to obtain an application. Address: 234 Geesey Road, Indiana, PA 15701. Email: lwvic@verizon.net. Phone: 724-465-5056.

Last year the individual award went to Dr. Thomas Falcone who has worked to promote recycling on both the local and state levels, and the group award was presented to the Indiana County Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps for its work to protect and revitalize watersheds.

Continued from page 2 Nominating Committee Seeks You!

Make things happen for the League and your community
Share your League successes with other members
Expand your League commitment and influence

If this sounds like an opportunity just waiting for you or someone you know, we want to hear from YOU!

Please contact Beth Marshall at nextlife@comcast.com to discuss the various opportunities available to serve on the LWVIC Board and to **Make Democracy Work – Together.**

Agriculture Update

In accordance with direction from Convention 2012, LWVUS will undertake an update of the Agriculture position. The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on 1)current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, sustainable farming, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2)current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies, and the federal agricultural regulatory process. Members of the committee will be responsible for developing study materials and consensus questions, and participating in reviewing/tabulating responses submitted by participating Leagues.

Candidate's Night Once Again a Success

Candidate's Night was successfully held the last week in October despite being initially postponed due to the weather. The Indiana Gazette and the Kittanning Paper ran lengthy articles following the event. (See <http://www.kittanningpaper.com/2012/11/02/local-state-representative-candidates-debate-issues/31306> for the online follow up article.)

Pennsylvania representative for the 60th district, Jeff Pyle, and challenger Jo Ellen Bowman both attended, and the event was moderated by Nick Ruffner of Renda Broadcasting. US Representative for the 9th district, Bill Shuster, and challenger Karen Ramsburg were also invited. Unfortunately, Representative Shuster was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Thus, LWVIC could not allow Ramsburg to participate in the event because LWVUS policy prohibits "empty chair debates."

As usual, League members moderated the forum, and written questions were submitted by engaged audience members.

Currently, the LWVIC board is working on developing a debate procedures manual/handbook that will include information regarding the planning, publicizing, and conducting of this important voter event with one of our goals being to increase the electronic presence of future Candidate's Nights.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 12, 2012, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Diane Duntley's home (204 Greenview Court, Indiana)

Tuesday, January 29, 2013, 5:30pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Program—Member Potluck Dinner & Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Church (285 Twolick Drive)

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 LWWIC'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.