

**LWVIC Board of
Directors, 2015-16**

Vicki Stelma

President

Newsletter Editor

724-599-9225

Cindy Rogers

Vice President

Sandy Whitson

Treasurer

Stacie Sawallish-Adkins

Secretary

Ellen Chinn

Laurie LaFontaine

Joyce Magee

Aida Shotts

Anne Simmons

Kay Snyder

Susan Wheatley

Save the Date

LWVIC Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting

Monday, January 25

5:30 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Program

Oak Place Community Center

1055 Oak Street, Indiana

This year we are planning a presentation on redistricting in Pennsylvania. This is a great opportunity to learn about this important electoral issue while meeting other members of our local League. Non-members are welcome, so this is also a great opportunity for you to bring a friend who might be interested in joining the League.

(If you are attending the dinner, please bring a main dish, vegetable, or dessert to share. The League will provide coffee, tea, water, and tableware.)

If you have any questions, contact lwvindianacounty@gmail.com or call 724-599-9225.

Why are you a member?

As a local, state, and national organization, the League gains its strength and influence from our members. When we work to effect change, our membership numbers give us clout; the more members we have, the stronger (and louder) our voice is.

So why are you a member of the League? Is it because nationally we recently sent over 50,000 letters to Congress demanding that lawmakers restore the Voting Rights Act? Is it because in Pennsylvania we fought for electronic voter registration (and won)? Is it because in Indiana County we continue to hold voter education events that allow our community members to be educated about all of their candidate choices before election day? Or is it something else?

For Cindy Rogers, who is now the LWVIC vice president, it was because she was, "impressed with the air quality work the League was doing." And so she, just like you, decided to join the League and make her own contribution to improving the lives of the people in our community.

Please take a few minutes to think about why you first joined the League, and then tell a friend your story. Maybe they'll want to join the League, too.

Tell us your story on Facebook ([facebook.com/PowerToCitizens/](https://www.facebook.com/PowerToCitizens/)). Just comment on the recent post about membership.

Accepting Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is accepting nominations for the fifth annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards.

The award recognizes grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment.

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

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. Contact Vicki Stelma, president of the LWVIC at 724-599-9225 or by email at lwvindi-anacounty@gmail.com for more information or an application.

Great Decisions Program Open for Registration

The *2016 Great Decisions Program* has been posted on the IUP Continuing Education Website: <http://www.iup.edu/continuing/great-decisions/default.aspx>.

The *Great Decisions* series is a part of the nation's largest nonpartisan study on eight of the most important world issues the United States will face in the coming year and beyond. Topics include Middle East Alliances, the Rise of ISIS, the Future of Kurdistan, Migration, the Koreas, the United Nations, Climate Change, and Cuba & the US.

This series is open to everyone and is held at St. Andrews Senior Living Community in Indiana. Classes meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. during February and March. Each discussion session will be led by an IUP professor with relevant expertise, and a briefing booklet will be provided.

Board working to amplify our voice in Indiana County

As an organization, the League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. **Our goal, in short, is to empower citizens to shape better communities.**

The LWVIC has identified some areas that need more involvement from interested League members so that we can continue to effectively build citizen participation in the democratic process (one of the things that the League does best) and help to create a better community.

For example, in order for the League to effect change, we need more members in general as well as a membership committee to make this happen. In addition, several of our members have been fulfilling roles for many years and are ready to pass along their expertise to apprentices.

If you are interested in having a larger role in our local League (and amplifying our voice), please think about taking on one of the following positions:

Child advocacy committee chair/committee member

Garage sale committee member

Membership committee chair/committee member

Social media coordinator

Treasurer apprentice

Voter editor

For more information, contact Vicki Stelma at 724-599-9225 or email at lwvindianacounty@gmail.com.

Leading the League into Our 2nd Century

If you haven't already read this blog post (<http://lwv.org/blog/leading-league-our-2nd-century-through-our-2016-election-plan>) from LWVUS President, Elisabeth MacNamara, check it out soon.

In this post, MacNamara references the League's, "vision and path for change (starting with next year's election," which promises to be one of the most important elections in a generation. It will be the most expensive presidential election in history, and "the first federal election without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965."

But the League is poised to have a positive influence by growing the vote, protecting the vote, and empowering the vote!

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

1105 Water Street
Indiana, PA 15701

724-599-9225

lwvindianacounty@gmail.com



Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Vicki Stelma know at 724-599-9225, and she will send a brochure & short letter describing LWWIC's activities.

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 25, 2016 —Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting, Oak Place Community Center, 1055 Oak Street, Indiana

Monday, March 28, 2016—Last Day to Register to Vote by Mail

Tuesday, April 26, 2016—Primary Election Day

Thursday, June 16—Sunday, June 19, 2016 - LWWUS Convention, Washington, DC

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.