



LWVIC Board of Directors, 2011-12

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LWVIC Seeking Nominations for Environmental Leadership Award

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County announces the establishment of an award to honor Peggy Clark, longtime Indiana County environmental activist. The Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award will recognize grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment. It will promote citizens working within the system at the local level to make a change for a better world and will be awarded annually.

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 eco-system 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. The award will be presented at the League of Women Voters of Indiana County Annual Meeting in May, 2012. **The deadline for application submission is April 23, 2012.**

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.

Protecting Voters: On the Front Lines in Florida, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas & Wisconsin

The League is now actively engaged in lawsuits to halt voter suppression laws in four states: FL, SC, TX and WI. The League of Women Voters of South Carolina and Texas filed papers to intervene in their respective photo ID cases before a three judge panel in Washington, DC, where the states are appealing the U.S. Department of Justice's denial of preclearance. Earlier in March, we had a big win in a case brought by the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin. The Dane County 9th Circuit Court announced a permanent injunction against implementation of the nation's most restrictive voter photo ID law. The state has appealed this decision directly to the WI Supreme Court. **And, sadly, after a hard fought battle in Pennsylvania, the legislature passed a voter photo ID bill. The Governor signed it into law immediately.**

STRAIGHT SCOOP ON SHALE DRILLING EVENT Free and Open to the Public

The Westmoreland County League and the Straight Scoop on Shale Drilling project will be holding a "Deliberative Theater" event at the **Greensburg Garden & Civic Center on Thursday, April 12, 2012, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.** This unique free citizen engagement event combines an original play "Managing Marcellus," written by CMU playwright Shannon Deep and performed by the Un-seam'd Shakespeare Company, with facilitated roundtable discussions with audience members, plus a Q & A session with a panel of experts.

- 5:30 p.m. Light Supper
- 6:00 p.m. Original Play
- 6:45 p.m. Roundtable Discussions
- 7:45 p.m. Questions to the Panel of Experts
- 9:00 p.m. Event Ends

Panel Moderator is **Erich Schwartzel** of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* award-winning "Pipeline" shale news journalism project. Panelists are St. Vincent professor **Cynthia Walter**, Indiana County Commissioner and Marcellus Shale Task Force Chair **Rod Ruddock**, and **Julie Kollar** of the League's Water Resources Education Network (WREN) speaking on Source Water Protection Coalitions that WREN sets up.

LWVIC has a contingency registered to attend; if you would like to attend and share a ride, contact President Sherene Hess at 724-762-4162. To register and for more information visit <http://shale.palwv.org> and type Managing Marcellus in the Search Box.

New League Report Details Redistricting Lessons Learned

Hot off the presses: *Shining a Light: Redistricting Lessons Learned in 2011*. Be sure to read and share our new report on the groundbreaking efforts of Leagues and other advocates to promote a more fair and transparent redistricting process. *Shining a Light* also highlights reform opportunities for additional improvements over the next decade. Visit <http://www.lwv.org/tags/redistricting> for more information.

LWVIC Garage Sale Fundraiser Set for May 5

The LWVIC's annual garage sale fundraiser is coming up on **May 5**. **Save your donations, and ask friends and neighbors for their recyclable castoffs. This is our major fundraiser for the year, so please make a donation.**

We sell books, clothes, household items, plants, and furniture. Nothing is too big or small. **Drop off your items** at 527 Shryock Avenue from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. from April 30 through May 4.

Volunteers are needed to set up from 9 —12 during the week preceding the sale. Call Susan McClure at 724-463-8252 to sign up.

(The Bag Sale will be held on May 12.)

**SAVE THE DATE:
LWVIC ANNUAL MEETING!
Monday, May 21, 2012**

Guest Speaker Roberta Winters (LWV Pennsylvania Vice President and Issues and Action Committee Chair) - Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station (1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)

Disclaimer Language on Candidate Use of the LWV Name

The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates for office or political parties.

Any use of the League of Women Voters name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League.

Elections and voting are core concerns for the League of Women Voters. Year in and year out, Leagues are committed to providing fact-based information about issues and the positions candidates take on those issues to help our members and voters in general make their own decisions.

A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, April 16, 2012, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Carol Maderer's home (640 Grant Street, Indiana)

Monday, April 23, 2012—Deadline for Nominations for the Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award

Tuesday, April 24, 2012—Primary Election Day

Saturday, May 5, 2012—LWVIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana) (**May 12, Bag Sale**)

Monday, May 21, 2012—LWVIC Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker Roberta Winters (LWV Pennsylvania Vice President and Issues and Action Committee Chair), Indiana Fire Association's White Township Station (1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana)

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.