

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2010-11

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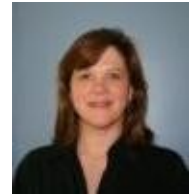
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Volume XXVIII, Issue 7, August, 2010

From the President

In June I had the good fortune to attend the biennial convention of the LWV United States in Atlanta, GA. Convention 2010 was inspirational and highly productive. Congressman John Lewis reminded us that change comes when groups like the League are not afraid to “get in the way.” A panel of our past presidents (including Nancy Neuman from Selinsgrove PA) emphasized the core values of League, careful study, consensus building and speaking with one voice. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius thanked us for the League’s key role in achieving significant health care reform and reminded us that much more still needs to be done.



Delegates debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including election reform, climate change, the need for redistricting reform, and health care reform, to name a few. Two new studies were adopted: The federal role in public education and the policy agenda on privatizing government services. Several new positions were adopted by concurrence including an arms control update, marriage equality for same gender couples, and use of the national popular vote compact. Also, many new resolutions were supported, including the UNANIMOUS passage of LWVUS support for safe drilling and mining for energy resources thanks in part to LWVPA’s recent study on Marcellus Shale development. You can read more at the LWVUS website at www.lwv.org, scroll down on the left for “Convention Wrap Up.”

Fall promises a new start to implementing the program goals that LWVIC approved at its annual meeting in May. We’ll put our calendar together at the retreat on August 10, at Reeger’s. Also in August we’ll be planning our displays for the Indiana Library as part of the Partner of the Month Program. We’ll begin planning the Candidates Workshop that is scheduled for January 22, 2011. If you know of anyone who is thinking of running for school board, local govern-

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Candidates Workshop for 2011 Elections Slated for January 22

The Civic Participation Committee welcomes additional members as we make plans for the January 2011 workshop for potential candidates for school boards and municipal offices.

The committee will begin planning in the early fall. The League encourages those thinking about running for local government or school board to attend this semi annual event.

The workshop will help attendees understand the requirements for pursuing candidacy and the importance of the roles they will be called to perform.

The election cycle in 2011 includes about half of the positions on seven school boards, at least one supervi-

sor in each of 28 townships, and half of the positions on 14 borough councils, as well as some row offices at the county level.

If you see this as one of your contributions to the League of Women Voters and would like to discuss options, please call Diane Duntley at (724) 349-2718 or Sherene Hess at lwvic@yourinter.net.

See what LWVUS and LWVPA are
doing at www.lwv.org and
www.palwv.org

BUSY SUMMER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

Summer is traditionally a time of rest for the league, but this summer has been an exception. Sherene started off with a bang attending Convention 2010, where oil and gas development was a significant topic of caucuses and debate.

Here in Indiana, the Marcellus Shale development kept the Environmental Issues committee quite active. Susan McClure provided testimony at the PA House Finance Committee hearing on May 11 on the Marcellus Shale severance tax. Cindy and Clarice presented a slide show at the Federation of Democratic Women's summer meeting. LWWIC drafted a response to Representative Pyle's urging him to vote for a severance tax.

Aida, Cindy, Vera, and Pepita manned a booth at the Marcellus Shale Expo, which was co-

sponsored by Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP), and provided information to truck drivers and industry representatives about the new anti idling legislation. Mary Beth helped draft testimony for PALWV on the Department of Environmental Protection's proposed Chapter 78 Oil and Gas Well Regulations and accompanied Sue Broughton at the hearing.



The Committee has also offered assistance to the Commissioners to assemble a Task Force for the County to address the many impacts of Marcellus Shale on citizens, businesses, and local governments. To date there is no Task Force that includes representatives of a cross-section of the community, but the Committee will continue to pursue this.

VOTING INFORMATION

Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, the last day to register is October 4. Votspa.com is a great source of information about voting. Candidate information can be found in SmartVoter.org. If you type in your address you can get a personalized ballot and additional information to help you on election day.



From the President, continued

ment, or county row offices, please encourage them to put this date on their calendar. This is a great opportunity to learn what is involved in running for local office without having to travel to another city. All LWWIC members and those interested are needed to help plan all of these important activities.

As we prepare for another year of voter education and issue study, I would like to thank all of the folks who have been working tirelessly the past two years on the Marcellus Shale study. LWWIC is still receiving praise from the state board and the local leagues who participated in the consensus study. Even outside the League, it has been widely regarded as THE most impartial set of writings currently existing.

And to those members who have worked on the many other LWWIC activities during the past 12 months: THANK YOU! And remember, even if you are not active in the League at this time, your membership is so important and strengthens the voice of this great organization.

And I would also like to give a special acknowledgment to Diane Duntley for her wonderful hospitality. She has hosted every single one of our board meetings (for several years now) and provides a very nice holiday dinner for us too.

Enjoy your summer!

LWVIC Annual Meeting Held May 6

LWVIC held another interesting annual meeting in May, with Slow Food Pittsburgh generously providing the program. Slow Food is an international educational organization dedicated to the revival of the kitchen and the table as centers of pleasure, culture, and community; to the invigoration and proliferation of regional, seasonal culinary traditions; to the stewardship of the land and ecologically sound food production; and to leading a slower and more harmonious life. Slow Food Pittsburgh has close to 200 members and is growing. Read more at: <http://www.slowfood.com/> and <http://www.slowfoodpgh.com/>.

From the business meeting:

Minutes: Minutes of 2009 Annual meeting were approved by the reading committee. President Hess appointed Aida Shotts, Beth Marshall, and Gail Sechrist as the readers for the 2010 minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sandy Whitson reported a balance of \$3,633.61 in the checking account and \$2,055.69 in the savings account for a total of \$5,689.30. Income for the 2009-2010 year was \$4,622.20 and Expenses were \$4,692.59.

Budget: A dues increase of \$5.00 for 2010-2011 to a total of \$55. The 2010 yard sale netted over \$2000. President Hess thanked Sandy Whitson and Susan McClure and all who assisted them for their fine work on the yard sale once again.

Election of Officers:

Vice President: Beth Marshall

Treasurer: Sandy Whitson

Elected Board Members (2 year term): Diane Duntley, Jane Lord, Betsy Pepper, Gail Sechrist; Vicki Stelma (one year term.) Susan McClure will chair the Nomination Committee next year. The Board of Directors will appoint other members.

Program: The Board Approved Program as presented in the April 2010 newsletter.

HELP LWVIC BECOME A PARTNER OF THE INDIANA FREE LIBRARY

Indiana Free Library has a program for organizations to be "Partner of the Month" to have place for displays, use of library facilities for programs or to show a movie...and a long list of other ideas. This is a win/win project: the League can be showcased and the library benefits from increased patron traffic.

The Board adopted this option as a valuable outreach opportunity and we are scheduled as the partner for September this year. Now we need a committee to work on making the best use possible of the time and space we have been given.

This will be a celebration of the League's 90th year and there are some ideas already gathered: showing the movie Iron-Jawed Angels; voter education, What is the League of Women Voters? - invitation to membership, Mar-

cellus Shale study posters, among others.

We can use display spaces, the community room with its kitchenette, and other areas by arrangement.

Sound interesting? We will meet once in mid August to assemble our plan of action, and set up at the end of the month.

This is an opportunity for short-term involvement for League members who really would like to do something for League, but who can't commit to an on-going role.

Contact Sherene Hess (724) 465-5056 or lwic@yourinter.net.



A newsletter of the
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

August 10, 9 am – 11:30 am—LWVIC Board Retreat—Reeger's Farm Market Patio—All LWVIC members welcome.

September 13, 7:00 pm—Regular Board meeting—all members welcome

January 22, 2011—Candidates Workshop—more info to come

BOARD MEETINGS—held at Diane Duntley's home, 204 Greenview Court, Indiana —All Members Welcome

LWVIC Board Retreat – August 10, 9 am – 11:30 am

The Board of Directors of LWVIC will meet for its annual retreat on **August 10, 2010** at Reeger's Farm Market Patio. We will gather shortly before 9 am for a light breakfast courtesy of the board. Beginning at 9 am, new board members will receive a brief orientation and the board will plan the LWV calendar for the next twelve months. We will wrap up around 11:30. **All LWVIC members are welcome to join us for all or part of the retreat, RSVP—** Sherene at 724-465-5056, or email: lwwic@yourinter.net.

Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let President Sherene Hess know at 724-465-5056 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.