

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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LWVIC Board of Directors, 2010-11

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LWVIC Annual Meeting to be Held Guest Speaker on Renewable Energy to be Featured

The LWVIC will hold its annual meeting for all interested members on **May 16** at the Indiana Fire Association's White Township station (1555 Indian Springs Road). Dinner will be followed by a **short business meeting, and directors will be elected. In addition, the program will feature speaker Gwen Andersen, the Director of the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy Center at Saint Francis University.**

Ms. Andersen educates state policy-makers, business development agencies, businesses, investors, students, and community groups about the economic and **environmental benefits of wind**. She also manages the Center's many projects which include investment analysis of community wind projects, an anemometer loan program, and a new, online renewable energy business certificate.

Ms. Andersen has an MBA in Finance, an MA in International Development with a concentration in Appropriate Electrification for Developing Countries, both from American University, and a BA in International Relations from Bryn Mawr College. Ms. Andersen began her career in 1991 working for a think tank concerned with energy policy and climate change. She left to form her own business, assisting with rural electrification of developing countries with renewable energy. In 1999 she joined international development firm Chemonics. In 2009 she became Director of the Renewable Energy Center, turning her international community development expertise to focus on wind power and sustainable energy needs in the United States.

The Renewable Energy Center was established in 2005. The foundation of the Center is the belief that enduring environmental stewardship must deliver economic and social, in addition to ecological, benefits. The REC currently reaches around 2,000 people, schools, municipalities, and businesses a year through tables at events, conference presentations, seminars, and community meetings. The Renewable Energy Center provides information on renewable energy technology in operations, on average, to over 400 small businesses a year through phone assistance. In addition to outreach, the Center operates several projects intended to help overcome barriers to renewable energy use, including a directory of installers, online wind maps, an anemometer loan program, and education for tradesmen, undergraduates, and graduate students.

To register for dinner and the meeting, please contact Cindy Rogers at 724-349-4333 by May 9. The cost of the dinner is \$15.00.

The LWVIC Annual Garage Sale will be held on May 7. (The bag sale will follow on May 14.)

This garage sale is our major money maker, so please plan to help out with it. We will be setting up from 9 am until noon Monday through Friday the week before the sale, and workers will also be needed on both sale days.

Items to sell are also needed. Scour your house and ask your neighbors and friends for donations. Bring the items to Susan McClure's garage (527 Shryock Avenue,) during the setup times. Please contact Betsy Pfeffer at (724-464-0608 or betsypfe@starpower.net) to sign up to work the sale.

LWVIC PROPOSED BUDGET JULY 1, 2011– JUNE 30, 2012

Nominating Committee to Offer Candidates at Annual Meeting

I. INCOME

A. Dues (58 members @ \$55)	\$3190.00
B. Contributions:	
1. Member	500.00
2. Non-Member	100.00
3. Projects/Other Sources	1850.00

TOTAL INCOME: **\$5640.00**

II. EXPENSES

A. General Administration	
1. President	\$ 20.00
2. Board Tools/Expenses	50.00
3. Administrative Committees	
a. Membership	30.00
b. Publicity	40.00
4. Operating Costs	
a. General Supplies	50.00
b. Insurance	125.00
c. Web Page	500.00
B. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations	
1. State/National Conventions	350.00
2. Workshops	100.00
3. Annual Meetings (Local)	30.00
C. Financial Support	
1. National \$30/ member	1740.00
2. State \$22/member	1276.00
D. Programs and Activities	
1. Publication Purchases	100.00
2. Bulletin	
a. Supplies	100.00
b. Postage	150.00
3. Voters Service	135.00
4. Action	
a. Legislative Interviews	25.00
b. Action	25.00
E. Committees	
1. Environmental Issues	150.00
2. Diversity	50.00
3. Education	100.00
4. Human Services Action	100.00
5. Library Issues	200.00
6. Other Programs	100.00
F. Misc./Scholarship	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5640.00**

The Nominating Committee of the LWVIC offers the following people for two year terms. (Nominations may also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting on May 16. In addition, the Board may make one-year appointments.)

Officers:

President—Sherene Hess

Secretary—Ann Rea

Board Members:

Carol Maderer, Cindy Rogers, Karen Ross, Aida Shotts, Vicki Stelma

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McClure, Jo Anne Ferraro, Cindy Rogers

2011 Family Fun Fest a Success

By Pepita Jiminez Jacobs

For the eighth year, LWVIC participated in Family Fun Fest on March 19. Our table kept all five of us hopping all through the Family Fun Fest. Joyce Magee's posters, complete with attractive balloons, and her special way with the children kept a stream of them coming to tell us in words and drawings what they most enjoy doing. It felt good to see fathers, not just mothers and grandmothers, bringing their children to join the festivities.

The kids appreciated the colorful bookmarks Cindy Rogers designed (we made them available to parents, too) and the "earth love" stickers Sandy Whitson brought. Where did this fascination with stickers come from, even among the very young?

Thanks also to Sandy and Clarice Reber for donating their time that day, interacting with the parents and the children, and keeping our table in order. And big thanks to Carol Maderer for volunteer coordination and holding the fort the last hour. Congratulations, ALL!

LWVPA Citizen Education Fund Receives \$150,000 Colcom Grant

In early March, LWVPA received the good news: The Citizen Education Fund was awarded \$150,000 from the Colcom Foundation to do education and outreach about the impacts of developing the Marcellus Shale play.

The Marcellus Shale Fund was established to address the accelerating environmental impact of shale drilling in western Pennsylvania. Grants are directed toward public education, community engagement, best practices, baseline data collection, water quality monitoring, land owner guidance, and collaborative projects. The Colcom Foundation was created by the late Cordelia S. May, heiress to the Mellon family fortune. The Foundation hopes to try to avoid some of the environmental problems of past energy resource development here, such as that related to coal extraction.

According to Program Director, Carol Zagrocki, "The grant requests communicate a widespread hope to avoid the legacy costs of energy extraction. The Foundation received 80 grant applications representing requests in excess of \$7 million. Additionally, countless volunteer hours provided the backbone of many requests. This speaks to the commitment and concern of caring community members."

LWVPA will use its grant to increase awareness of development activities, increase public participation in community based decision making, minimize negative impacts of drilling through education, and increase voter participation, civic discussion and advocacy.

The LWV of Indiana County's five study guides that were developed for the 2010 Consensus Meetings held across the state were instrumental in Colcom's decision to award a grant to LWVPA.

Issue study is the heart of the League of Women Voters. League positions are grass roots positions arrived at after study. The LWV Indiana County studied issues surrounding Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction for two years, lobbied the State Convention to make the study a State Study and wrote the study documents. After many Leagues in the state held their consensus meetings, LWVPA gathered responses and formed the position on Marcellus Shale natural gas development which it now advocates.

Congratulations to LWVPA on its prestigious award.

LWVIC Invited to Moderate Two School Board Candidate's Night Events

The League will moderate two upcoming Candidate's Nights. The first Candidate's Night is sponsored by the **Indiana Foundation for Education**, and will be held on Sunday, **May 1** (time to be determined). The forum will be held at the Indiana Area Junior High Auditorium on 5th Street and will be broadcast live on radio stations WDAD and WCCS. This is a public event, and there is no charge to attend. Also, the League will moderate a second Candidate's Night on **May 5**, which is sponsored by **Marion Center Cares** at the Marion Center Park Hall.

The format will be the League's long standing one where audience members will write questions on notecards, and the League's screeners will forward them to the moderator to be read to each candidate. No personal questions or questions directed to one candidate will be allowed. **If you would like to help with either event, please contact Sherene Hess at 724-762-4162.** You can help collect notecards or be one of the screening team.

Please spread the news. The purpose of these forums is to educate citizens on the role of a school board member and to help area voters make informed decisions at the polls on May 17. Candidate's Nights are an important service not only to the voter, but also to the candidates because they give them an opportunity to present their views and answer questions from the public.

A newsletter of the
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We're on the
Web!

www.palwv.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11, 2011, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, Sandy Whitson's home (402 Elm Street, Indiana)

May 1, 2011—Indiana Area School Board Candidate's Night, Moderated by LWVIC (Indiana Junior High School)

May 5, 2011—Marion Center School Board Candidate's Night, Moderated by LWVIC (Park Hall, Marion Center)

May 7, 2011—LWVIC Annual Garage Sale (527 Shryock Avenue, Indiana)

May 16, 2011, 6:00 pm—LWVIC Annual Meeting, 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.

