

VOTER

League of Women Voters of
Indiana County, Pennsylvania
www.palwv.org/indiana



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CANDIDATES WORKSHOP: RUNNING FOR LOCAL OFFICE

Plans for the League's Workshop for Candidates for School Board and Local Government Positions on January 31, 2009, at the Rustic Lodge are well under way. The purpose of the workshop is to encourage potential candidates to explore the opportunities for public service in local government agencies and offices.

Several local groups, business and individuals have made contributions to publicity and other basic costs and will be cosponsors. They will also contribute to some scholarships where aid is needed.

In the morning session, there will be two separate tracks. Potential candidates for school board directors will hear from Ron Cowell of the Educational Policy Leadership Center and a representative from the PA School Boards Association. Those interested in other local government positions will hear from Susan Hockenberry of the Local Government Academy and from a panel of current and former local government officials. The groups will come together for a buffet luncheon and a program on Being a Successful Candidate for Office presented by Beth Marshall.

Publicity has been sent to many selected groups throughout the county, including service organizations, fire departments, churches, and school districts. Registration costs \$40 dollars and includes lunch. Limited scholarships are available for those who might need them. Registration forms can be downloaded from the League website: www.palwv.org/indiana. The registration deadline is Jan. 15, 2009.

In the 2009 elections there will be several hundred positions open throughout the county. Members are encouraged to reach out through their community contacts to people who might be encouraged to consider attending the workshop.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT MEETING

The LWVIC will host a breakfast meeting at Fire Mountain Restaurant on Saturday, January 24 at 8:30 am to discuss the National Study of the proposed Popular Vote Compact and the electoral college.

Ed Platt, husband of Olga Platt and a retired professor of Political Science at IUP, will be our speaker.

The Popular Vote Compact is a plan whereby states would enter into a binding compact to give all their electoral votes to whomever won the national popular vote for President. It would go into effect as soon as enough states entered the compact to total 270 electoral votes. It is an attempt to avoid electing a President who did not get the most popular votes without amending the Constitution. For more information on the study, go to the League of Women Voters of the US website: www.palwv.org/lwv/LWVPA%20Summer%2008%20Voter.pdf.

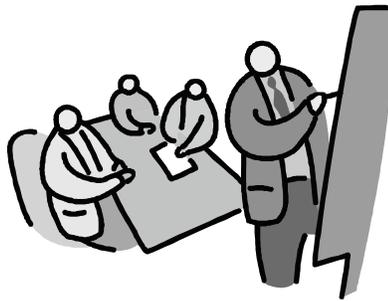
This meeting will replace our January potluck dinner. Members and guests are welcome to come to the meeting.

Dinner Meeting on Marcellus Shale Issues

On February 17 the LWVIC will host a member meeting on the Marcellus shale issues at the Eatn' Park Restaurant at 6:00 pm. There will be speakers representing both the gas industry and non-industry groups.

The Study Committee is working hard to research information about this new gas drilling technique and its ramifications for the local economy and environment. We will be using information from many sources including a study done by the LWV of Tarrant County, Texas. That county is the home of many of the companies involved in drilling in PA.

Members and their guests are invited to come to the meeting. We will be ordering off the menu and going Dutch. We will schedule a consensus meeting for this study in April.



LWVIC STUDY: MARCELLUS SHALE

Our League is studying Marcellus Shale, a layer of natural gas rich shale lying a mile under the surface and extending from the Finger Lakes in New York south to northeastern Tennessee, from eastern Pennsylvania west to eastern Ohio. It is named for Marcellus, NY, where an outcropping is exposed. The shale is a fine-grained, black, low density, carbon rich sedimentary rock that was formed during the Devonian period by the compressing and hardening of the materials found in clay (quartz, pyrite, uranium, and other minerals).

Sometimes called mud rock, it forms in mostly parallel layers, with a vertical orientation, that are sometimes fractured or easy to split. The shale may settle into sharp grades or more rolling slopes. Across PA Marcellus shale varies in thickness from 700 to 50 feet with the thinnest layers being

near the Ohio River.

Dreama VanCise



MINING/DRILLING AND LWVUS AND LWVPA POSITIONS

The most exciting energy find in the country lies a mile under Indiana County, and the new technology needed to extract the natural gas is being used successfully in the Barnett Shale in Texas. Drilling companies are here, but The Water Resources Education Network Project (WREN) notes that an abundant amount of water is crucial to gas well development. Its source, its transportation, and its disposal need to be known before drilling. WREN also notes that Gov. Rendell has said that PA's Marcellus Shale gas deposits will be developed, but has pledged to do it in a manner that protects our water resources.

LWV promotes an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest. The PA Constitution mandates that "the people of Pennsylvania have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of ... the environment...[and] as trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people."

Stephanie Chandler



EPA DECISION ON NEW CONSTRUCTION OF COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

On November 13 the Environmental Appeals Board of the EPA handed down a decision that puts a freeze on the construction of up to 100 new coal-fired power plants throughout the United States. This decision will pass the power to develop new rules on carbon dioxide emissions from these plants to the Obama administration.

The League of Women Voters of the United States has been advocating for a moratorium on new construction.

New Member

The LWVIC welcomes new member Kimberly Asonevich, 410 Bob Street, Johnstown, PA. If you see her, say Hi.

A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
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We're on the
Web!

www.palww.org/indiana



CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

December 15 -- Diane Duntley's house. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for beverages and snacks, with dinner at 6:30 p.m., and the Board Meeting, 7:00 pm. RSVP to Diane via email: diane.duntley@gmail.com. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME.

January 22, 2009 – Marcellus Shale Study Committee meeting, 7:00 pm. Mary Beth Sweeney's home, 295 Elm St., Indiana.

January 24, 2009 - Consensus meeting, National Popular Vote Compact Study. 8:30 am. Fire Mountain Restaurant.

January 31, 2009 – Local Candidate workshop, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm. Rustic Lodge, Indiana.

February 17, 2009 – Marcellus Shale Dinner member meeting. 6:00 pm. Eat n' Park Restaurant.

March 14, 2009 – Family Fun Fest. 10:00 am – 3 pm. Indiana Mall. Theme: 110 Best Books for Children.

April – Marcellus Shale Study Consensus.



Know someone who may be interested in membership? Let Olga Platt know at 724-465-2073 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.