

**LWVIC Board of  
Directors, 2016-17**

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## Save the Date!

**Candidates Night**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

**7:00 pm**  
**Oak Place Community Center**  
**1055 Oak Street, Indiana**

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County will hold Candidates Night on Thursday, October 27.

Candidates for the 9th US Congressional District Art Halvorson, Democrat; Adam Sedlock, Democrat; and Bud Shuster, Republican; the 41st PA State Senatorial District Tony DeLoreto, Democrat; Don White, Republican; and Stanley Buggie, Independent; and the 62nd PA Legislative District Patrick Edwards, Democrat; and Dave Reed, Republican have been invited.

Renda Broadcasting Corporation and the Indiana Gazette will co-sponsor the forum with the League, assisting with moderating the event. A Screening Team will accept written questions from audience members. Audience members wishing to submit questions should plan

to arrive a few minutes early and should direct all questions to all candidates for a particular office.

The event is open to the public. Refreshments will be provided by the Indiana branch of the American Association of University Women. The Oak Place Community Center is fully accessible for persons with physical disabilities. Ample parking is available in the lot across from the Center.

Any League member who would like to volunteer at the event is encouraged to contact the LWVIC at 724-599-9225 or via email at [lwvindianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvindianacounty@gmail.com).

## Board Identifies Local Needs

The LWVIC board recently held its annual retreat to organize this year's (July through June) work and to discuss how to implement the program that was adopted at our annual meeting in May.

Through discussion, we have identified some areas that need involvement from interested

## Working to Protect the Election

The LWVPA is working hard this election season to ensure that every eligible voter has access to the polls without threats or intimidation and to help reinforce public confidence in our election system. They have joined an “election protection coalition” to develop a plan to do just that, and the LWVIC is working with them to contribute to the plan’s success.

As an individual, you can keep your ears and eyes open, and if you notice potential problems before election day, contact the League. As a League member, you can work with several of our members who are already mobilizing our resources to protect voters in Indiana County.

If you are interested in joining in this effort to protect our election, please contact the LWVIC at 724-599-9225 or via email at [lwvianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvianacounty@gmail.com).

## Voter Registration Drives a Success Once Again

Submitted by Karen Ross, Chair Voter Services Committee

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped with our voter registration events this past August and September. This is the heart of what the League is all about, and your efforts to be a part of this historic election were greatly appreciated. A special thanks goes to Vera Bonnet, Ellen Chinn, Peggy Eyer, Kimberly McCullough, Cindy Rogers, Aida Shotts, Anne Simmons, Susan Welsh, Sandy Whitson, and Maryann Yeamans for helping at registration events.

This season, we registered voters at the Back to School Bash, the Indiana Farmer’s Market, on both the IUP main campus and the IUP Punxsutawney campus, at the Artist’s Hand, at the Indiana Free Library, and at Wyotech.

As always, it was rewarding to meet the public and to help new voters to register. We collected more than 50 registrations (and counting at the time of this publication), handed out absentee ballot applications, and answered voters’ questions.

If you or someone you know needs registration information, direct them to [votespa.com](http://votespa.com). It is now possible to register to vote and apply for absentee ballots online. You can also locate your polling place and check to see if your registration is up-to-date. You can also contact the Indiana County Registration Office at 724-465-3852 for information about voting.

**The last day to register to vote is Tuesday, October 11, and requests for absentee ballots must be received by Friday, November 4.**

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 8 and encourage those you know to do the same. The polls are open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. **If you are in line by closing time, you must be permitted to vote.** (Be prepared to wait in line if your polling place is Pratt Hall or Zink Hall on IUP’s campus.)

**Democracy only succeeds when we participate.**

## Election Law Review & Update: Be a Part of this Initiative

At the LWVPA Convention in the summer of 2015, the delegates approved a state-wide review and update of our **current election law positions**. These positions include such issues as redistricting and apportionment, election procedures, voter registration requirements, alternatives to closed primaries, and alternatives to “winner take all” election systems.

A statewide committee was formed and has now provided local Leagues with a detailed study guide and consensus questions.

This is where the LWVIC comes in. **If we would like our voices to be heard at the state level, we must study these issues and hold at least one general membership meeting so that we can reach a local consensus on our positions.** Our positions are then sent to the LWVPA and combined with those of other League members across the state, with the result being updated position statements regarding the issues outlined above.

This is the League way. First we educate ourselves and reach positions on issues so that we can all speak with one voice. Then we educate those around us and work to create the change that we would like to see. These election topics are particularly timely given recent concerns about the 2016 primaries and caucuses, ongoing interest in alternatives to Pennsylvania’s current primary system, and general discussions about other approaches to direct democracy.

**If you are interested in studying these positions and having your voice heard**, please contact Vicki Stelma at 724-599-9225 or via email at [lwvianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvianacounty@gmail.com) so that a local study committee can begin to work on these pressing issues.

### Input on Nomination Sought

The LWVIC was recently asked to nominate a candidate for the Indiana County Conservation District Board. Director’s terms last four years, and meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am.

The work done by the conservation district is important to our citizens in terms of conservation and natural resource issues, and diversity on the board is valued.

Nominations are due November 1, and if you would like to nominate someone who, in the words of the Commissioners, “believes in conservation, practices it at every opportunity, and is willing to give freely of his or her time and talents to get others interested as well,” please contact the LWVIC at 724-599-9225 or via email at [lwvianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvianacounty@gmail.com)

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League members. For example, in order for our League to create change, we need more members in general (and a membership committee to make this happen). In addition, several of our board members have been fulfilling roles within our League for many years but are ready to pass along their expertise to apprentices. (And so we need to identify potential apprentices.) Finally, we need to begin thinking about how we will raise money for our League activities if we don’t hold our annual garage sale.

Please consider taking on a larger role in your League. Contact Vicki Stelma at 724-599-9225 or via email at [lwvianacounty@gmail.com](mailto:lwvianacounty@gmail.com) for more information. And thank you for your continued membership in the LWVIC.

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

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## CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, October 3, 6:30 pm**—Panel Discussion on Gerrymandering, IUP (Monongahela Room in the HUB)

**Thursday, October 13, 11:30 am**—Child Advocacy Committee on Education Meeting, Benjamin's Restaurant (Indiana)

**Monday, October 17, 7:00 pm**—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room (1005 Oak Street, 2nd Floor)

**Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am—5:00 pm**—Democracy School/PA Community Rights Workshop, Disobedient Spirits, Homer City (Contact chad@celdf.org for more information.)

**Thursday, October 27, 7:00 pm**—Candidates Night (see details on front page)

**Wednesday, November 16, 8:30 am—5:30 pm**—Shale & Public Health Conference, University of Pittsburgh

**Thursday, June 1—Sunday, June 4**—LWVPA Convention, the Inn at Pocono Manor

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 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.*