

**LWVIC Board of
Directors, 2018-19**

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Changes in Membership Renewal Coming Soon

In order to align our local membership renewal process with both LWVUS and LWVPA calendars, we will be changing when your membership renewal payment is due.

Currently, membership renewals are spread out across the entire calendar year depending on when you originally joined our League; however, the portion of your membership that is owed to both LWVUS and LWVPA is due based on the calendar year.

Beginning in January, members will receive a notice that your membership needs to be renewed. Once you renew, your membership will be good for the entire year of 2019 and will be due again in January of 2020.

For those of you whose renewal date falls in the last quarter of this year (October, November, or December), we ask that you renew this year, and once you do that, your membership will be good for the entire year of 2019 (In other words, you won't be asked to pay again in January for the upcoming year.) Making this change will allow for easier tracking of members as well as easier tracking of funds.

If you have any questions about this change in our local procedures, please don't hesitate to contact Vicki Stelma at lwindianacounty@gmail.com or at 724-599-9225.

Save the Date!

Friday, September 14—Happy Hour 5:00 to 7:00 pm

Please join us for an evening of conversation and an introduction to your League. Members are encouraged to bring a friend who might be interested in joining the League as we gather for this informal member get together at Kay Smith's house (19 Erica Drive, Indiana).

(Check your email soon for more information. Contact lwindianacounty@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.)

Hope to see you there!

Voter Registration Events—Join Us This September

This September a number of voter registration events have been organized by LWVIC in order to continue our national focus on “Creating a More Perfect Democracy.” (Check out this video which was broadcast at the 53rd LWVUS Convention this past summer.)

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/creating-more-perfect-democracy-video>

Please consider volunteering your time to make these events successful. Contact lwvindianacounty@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer, and keep your eyes open for emails with more information.

Wednesday, September 5, IUP Community Involvement Fair

Saturday, September 8, Northern Appalachian Folk Festival

Saturday, September 15, Indiana County Farmer’s Market in Indiana

Saturday, September 22, Clymer Days

Tuesday, September 25, National Voter Registration Day, Downtown Indiana.

In addition, if you would like to chair the Voter Services Committee, please contact Vicki Stelma at 724-599-9225.

Environmental Committee Update—Summit & Plastics

Last year, the LWVIC Environmental Issues Committee partnered with the Center for Community Growth, Evergreen Conservancy, and the Indiana County Office of Planning and Development to host the Sustainable Economy Summit. After the summit, over the course of the year, a set of recommendations was developed regarding the following areas: the renewable energy sector, innovative agriculture, sustainable building construction, renovation, and restoration, and the wise use of the county’s natural resources.

Now it’s time for Summit II which will be held at the Rustic Lodge in Indiana on Friday, September 28. The event is from 9 am until 3:30 pm with registration at 8:30 am. This event is free and open to the public, but you must register to attend. Visit

<http://sustainableindianacounty.org/economic-development-summit-ii/> for more information.

In addition, the Environmental Issues Committee will begin to work on learning more about plastics, their health and environmental impact, strategies for dealing with plastic disposal, and environmentally safer alternatives to plastic through public education programs and materials.

If you would like to join this effort, please contact Vera Bonnet (verabonnet@gmail.com), the chair of the committee.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As the League nears its 100th anniversary, we have been taking a hard look at our organization so that we can continue to move forward and continue to help make democracy work in the future.

One strategy that LWVUS has identified is to increase student memberships. To this end, they have waived the student per member payment (pmp) through January 2021 that local Leagues pay for student members. To help us expand our reach by engaging and recruiting students, please encourage any students you know to join the LWVIC.

You can find more information regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion and the League at <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>.

Announcements of Interest

The LWVPA recently **updated its election law position** which can be found here: <http://files.constantcontact.com/fe897e59001/9bcc6f47-f8ff-4374-8c56-c26a5f6c77b9.pdf>

If you are interested in where we stand on such issues as primaries, poll workers, and voter registration among other things, be sure to read this update.

The **Child Advocacy Committee on Education** will begin **meeting** again soon, so if you're interested in monitoring issues, activities, and policies related to the welfare of children in Indiana County, please contact Anne Simmons, the chair of this committee, at aesindiana-pa@verizon.net to find out when the next meeting will take place.

The LWVIC is **planning a candidate night** for candidates running for PA Representative in the 62nd district and for US Congress in the 15th district. Keep your eyes open for an email within the next few weeks containing more information. We hope to see you there.

Fair Districts, Indiana County, in partnership with the LWVIC and the Indiana Free Library, is currently planning a **community book reading and discussion**. *The Embattled Vote in America: From the Founding to the Present* by Allan J. Lichtman has been chosen. More information regarding the book can be found at <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674972360>. This event is being planned for early in the fall, and more information will be going out to the public soon.

In addition, the **work to end gerrymandering continues** on a statewide as well as local level as Fair Districts pursues passage of a bill drawing on the best of SB 22/HB 722. Fair Districts will continue to share the message that an independent commission to draw both congressional and legislative districts is needed in Pennsylvania.

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

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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

September Voter Registration Events—Wednesday, September 5, IUP Community Involvement Fair; **Saturday, September 8**, Northern Appalachian Folk Festival; **Saturday, September 15**, Indiana County Farmer's Market in Indiana; **Saturday, September 22**, Clymer Days; **Tuesday, September 25**, National Voter Registration Day, Downtown Indiana (see emails for details)

Friday, September 14, 5:00—7:00 pm—LWVIC Member Happy Hour (see front page or email for details)

Monday, September 17, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PA-SEC meeting room (1005 Oak Street, 2nd Floor)

Friday, September 28, 9:00 am—3:30 pm—Sustainable Indiana County Economic Development Summit II register here:
<http://sustainableindianacounty.org/economic-development-summit-ii/>

Tuesday, October 9—Last day to register to vote

Tuesday, October 30—Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

Tuesday, November 6—Election Day

Know someone who
may be interested in
membership?

Let Membership
Chair Sandy Whitson
know at
swhitson8@comcast.
net, 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.