

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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LWVIC Board of Directors, 2014-15

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Potluck Dinner and Program to be Held January 28

Early Childhood Education: What are the Current Issues?

Most profess to be in favor of early education and agree that an educated citizenry is key to a secure and economically prosperous community and nation; however, no one seems to be able to figure out how to pay for it or exactly what early education programs should look like.

According to one poll, 71% of American voters support federal funding for early education, but people differ on their views about how to define it. Is it "pre-kindergarten," one year prior to kindergarten, or preschool, which might include programs for children ages 0 to 5? Panelists will address these topics from evidence based research and current public policy efforts.

Panelists:

Ms. Janie Hess-Gray, Education Services Manager, Indiana County Head Start, Inc.

Fredalene Barletta Bowers, Ph.D., Professor, Child Development and Family Relations, Chair, Human Development and Environmental Studies Department, IUP

Ms. Tamara Duff, Supervisor of Early Intervention, Armstrong-Indiana Intermediate Unit 28

Lynanne Black, Ph.D., Professor, Chair, Educational and School Psychology Department, IUP

Date: Monday, January 28, 2015

Time: 5:30 p.m. for potluck dinner & short business meeting, 7:00 p.m. program

Place: White Township Fire Station, 1555 Indian Springs Road, Indiana

Bring a dish to share. Tableware and beverages provided by LWVIC.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME! (RSVP if joining us for dinner; not necessary if attending program only)

RSVP by January 27 to Sandy Whitson at swhitson8@comcast.net or 724 463-7205.

LWVPA Sponsoring Video Contest

High School students in the state of Pennsylvania are invited to prepare a 30 second video submission demonstrating and encouraging the importance of participation in the democratic process through the theme “Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport: Get in the Game!”



The top prize is \$1000 with \$500 being awarded for second, and \$250 for third. The first high school with 5 submissions will also receive \$250. Any high school student or group of students (grades 9-12) in the state of Pennsylvania can participate. (Participants are ineligible if directly related to the panel of judges for the contest.)

Contest submissions must be uploaded to YouTube and entry and release forms received by email before midnight, March 1, 2015. Winners will be announced by April 15, 2015.

To get started, read and review FAQ, the Submission Process, and the Rules and Disclosures pages, discuss your plans with parents or guardians, then create a video. Upload your video to YouTube, then complete, scan, and email your entry form and one release form for each participant. Detailed instructions are on the Submission Process page. (See <http://www.palwv.org/videocontest> for this information.) Any other questions can be sent to videocontest@palwv.org

An updated version of Shale Gas Extraction and Public Health: A Resource Guide is now available online at <http://shale.palwv.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/2014-LWVP-Shale-Resource-Guide.pdf>.

Great Decisions 2015

Challenge yourself in the new year by learning about eight of today’s most pressing global issues. Participate in the Great Decisions Lecture/Discussion Series on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 am—11:30 am beginning on February 3.

Join with friends to hear expert speakers from IUP in the comfortable setting of St. Andrew’s Village Community Room. A briefing book on issues and questions is prepared by the nonpartisan Foreign Policy Association (see www.fpa.org).

This year’s eight topics include: **Russia and the Near Abroad, India Changes Course, Sectarianism in the Middle East, Privacy in the Digital Age, U.S. Policy Toward Africa, Syria’s Refugee Crisis, Human Trafficking in the 21st Century, and Brazil’s Metamorphosis.**

For further information and a registration brochure, contact IUP Continuing Education (724-357-2292). Information and registration is also available online at <http://www.iup.edu/continuing/>. Scroll down to the non credit courses category, and click on Great Decisions Foreign Policy Lecture Series.

Environmental Leadership Award Accepting Nominations and Forming Committee

The League of Women Voters of Indiana County is accepting nominations for the fourth annual Peggy Clark Grassroots Environmental Leadership Awards. **In addition, there is still room on the committee for LWVIC members who are interested in helping to publicize and coordinate this year's awards.** The award recognizes grassroots citizens, groups or businesses who show exemplary leadership and active participation in policy issues that involve protecting or preserving our environment.

Candidates for the award should demonstrate grassroots leadership in the following areas:

- Preservation and/or protection of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem and maximum protection of public health and the environment
- Grassroots activism to preserve or protect our precious natural resources

This leadership can take a variety of forms including but not limited to the following:

- New or innovative technology to prevent degradation of our environment
- Activities that show a direct positive effect on our environmental resources
- Activities of notable stewardship of the environment
- Activities that reduce pollution in order to protect our water, air and land
- Activities in particular that reduce water pollution from both point and non-point sources
- Development of policies to achieve water quality essential for maintaining species populations and diversity

Nominations can be submitted by citizens or groups, or individuals can self-nominate. **The deadline for application submission is April 2015.**

Contact Sherene Hess, president of the LWVIC **to obtain an application or to serve on the awards committee.** Address: 234 Geesey Road, Indiana, PA 15701. Email: lwvic@verizon.net. Phone: 724-762-4162.

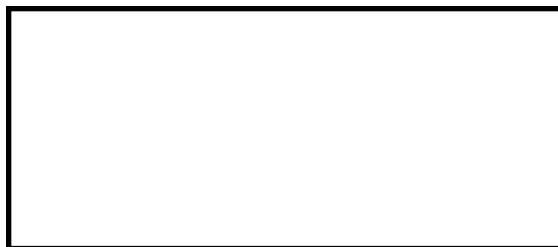
Dear League Member: Think About This...

If you are looking for an experience to remember, interesting and interested people doing important work, and engaging dialogue, you are perfect for the LWVIC Board of Directors. If you would like to be a part of a dynamic and fun group of people who are engaged in rewarding, challenging, and satisfying work right here in Indiana County, consider joining the board.

By joining the board, you will be able to share our League successes with other Leagues, build your leadership skills, set the direction for the LWVIC, and make things happen for our community. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know would like to pursue, please contact Beth Marshall, chair of the nominating committee, at nextlife@comcast.net.

A newsletter of the
League of Women Voters
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CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

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 LWWIC's activities.

Monday, January 19, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room, (1005 Oak Street, 2nd floor)

Wednesday, January 28, 5:30 pm Dinner, 7:00 pm Program — Member Potluck Dinner and Meeting, White Township Fire Hall (1555 Indian Springs Road) (See details on page 1)

Saturday, February 21—AAUW NICE! Women's Advocacy Training Smart-Start Workshop (Contact Susan Wheatley at wheatleyse@gmail.com for more information)

Friday, March 13—Stormwater Management Workshop, KCAC (Sponsored by the Stormwater Education Partnership)

June 5 — June 7—LWVPA Convention, Pittsburgh

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.