

VOTER

League of Women
Voters of Indiana
County, Pennsylvania



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

LWVIC Board of Directors, 2013-14

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Voter ID IS NOT a Requirement to Vote

If you are reading this before November 5, please be aware that voters will need clarification regarding voter identification requirements this election season. If you are not reading this before election day, please continue to read for important information regarding Judge McGinley's orders regarding voter ID protocols.

The Pennsylvania Department of State (DOS) has continued its efforts to imply that ID is required. Through "confusion tactics" on TV, in flyers and on posters, many voters may decide to not act upon their fundamental right to vote because they anticipate that they may not be permitted to vote. The PALWV has presented objections to the DOS with regard to the TV ads.

Voters will be asked for ID. They do not need it to vote and do not have to show it. As always, first time voters do have to provide identification, but that identification is not limited to the identification type as prescribed in the Voter ID law or flyer.

Poll workers and Judges of Elections (JOEs) are required to hand the voter a flyer produced by the Department of State if the voter does not show identification. It is against Judge McGinley's orders for any poll worker or JOE to offer ANY comment or discussion of the potential for future ID requirements. **Should you be made aware of any situation that breeches the Judge's order, please let us know—where, when and how—by emailing info@palwv.org or calling 800-692-7281.**

Health Care Update

The LWVIC recently held a health care forum to inform local seniors of the impact of the Affordable Care Act on Medicare. The forum was well attended and consistent with the League's position on healthcare which calls for a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost.

To learn more about what is happening at the national level of the League regarding this important legislation, visit http://www.lwv.org/blog/leagues-take-lead-affordable-care-act?utm_source=BlogRoundup&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=OCT2013.

Dear League Members:

As you may know, Sherene Hess our League president, recently lost her husband, Mark. There has been a flurry of e-mails asking what we, as a League, will do for a memorial. Many League members feel that they would like to do something for Sherene and Mark's sons.

In doing some checking, Beth Marshall found that the Hess boys (of which there are four) have PA TAP Education accounts to which we can donate. The League of Women Voters board met on Monday, September 16, and voted to have a one time collection and issue a check which would be divided into these funds however Sherene sees fit. The oldest son is already in college, and the second one is a senior in high school.

If you decide to participate in this collection, a check can be made out to LWVIC with "Hess Ed Fund" in the memo line and sent to the following address:

Sandy Whitson, Treas.
402 Elm St.
Indiana, PA 15701

Monies will be collected until December 1, 2013, and a check will then be written according to Sherene's instructions.

Thank you.

Sandy Whitson, Treasurer, LWVIC



Join national, state, and local League leaders from across the country for lively discussions about issues important to the League and to our democracy. Hear interesting speakers and learn more about the issues that are important to our organization and our nation. Participate in training sessions, vote on League programs, network with other amazing leaders, and join in the discussion that makes the League a vital force in our democracy. For more information, visit www.lwv.org or contact Vicky Stella at vstrella@lwv.org.

Agriculture Study Committee Seeking Members

The LWVUS is currently in the process of updating our position on agriculture policy. This involves understanding the following issues: the use of genetically modified organisms, pesticide and herbicide use, water pollution, aquifer depletion, the use of antibiotics in livestock, accurate food labeling, and current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in the agriculture industry, crop subsidies, and the federal agriculture regulatory process.

Even if you think that you don't know a lot about agriculture, the League can use your energy to study these issues and help our local members form a consensus based on our growing knowledge.

The national study committee will be writing the consensus questions, making suggestions for background reading, and tabulating the results of the local consensus meetings which are due April 4, 2014. The National Board will adopt those positions on which the local Leagues reach consensus and announce the results before the next LWVUS Convention in May 2014.

The LWVIC has thus formed our local committee to participate in the LWVUS study. The committee will meet on **November 19 at 6:00 pm** at the Commonplace Coffee House in Indiana to continue to discuss the issues outlined above. **Call Beth Marshall at 724-465-8974 or email her at nextlife@comcast.net if you want to be on the committee.** Both League members and non-League members are welcome to be on the committee.

Following are three basic reference documents which the national study committee is recommending. All can be accessed and downloaded online.

"The Economic Report of the President 2013, Chapter 8,"
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/ERP-2013/ERP-2013-chapter8/content-detail.html>. A policy brief of the Union of Concerned Scientists, "The Healthy Farm: A Vision for US Agriculture,"
http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/The-Healthy-Farm-A-Vision-for-US-Agriculture.pdf. An article in Scientific American, "Will Organic Fail to Feed the World?"
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=organic-farming-yields-and-feeding-the-world-under-climate-change&page=2>.

Please consider getting involved in this important effort to protect agriculture.

Marcellus Shale Conference to be Held

"Shale Drilling and Public Health: A Day of Discovery" will be held on Saturday, **November 23**, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. This conference is presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's Shale and Public Health Committee. The day will feature nationally known researchers presenting information regarding the impact of fracking on human and animal health and includes health fair exhibits and demonstrations of water and air monitors. Registration is free, but a box lunch can be reserved for the cost of \$12.50. For more information and to register, visit http://shale.palwv.org/?page_id=283.

A newsletter of the
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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.

Tuesday, November 5 - Election Day

Monday, November 18, 7:00 pm—Board Meeting, All Members Welcome, PASEC meeting room, (1005 Oak Street, 2nd floor)

Tuesday, November 19, 6:00 pm—Agriculture Study Committee Meeting, Commonplace Coffee House

Saturday, November 23, 9:00 am-5:00 pm—"Shale Drilling and Public Health: A Day of Discovery" Conference (Heinz History Center, 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.