

THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

AUGUST 2009

Calendar

August 29

Southern Regional Workshop, Vincennes

September 12

Northern Regional Workshop, South Bend

October 20

State Board Telephone Conference

October 24

United Nations Day

November 14

State Board Meeting LWVIN Office, Indianapolis

December 15

State Board Telephone Conference

December 15

Bill of Rights Day

League of Women Voters—90th Anniversary

By Gail Pebworth



The year 2010 marks 90 years since the LWV of the United States and LWV of Indiana were founded. Growing out of the noble suffrage movement and a 72 year effort to secure women the right to vote, the LWV has been continuously working for good government at the local, state, and national levels.

This 90th anniversary year presents all Leagues with a number of opportunities:

- *Increased awareness of our rich history,
- *Motivation to increase our “vision” for LWV activities and effectiveness,
- *Increased LWV visibility at all levels,
- *Membership growth & springboard for reorganization of new Leagues
- *Increased financial support and development,
- *Engagement of League leaders from the past.

Now is the time for local and state Leagues to begin to plan for 2010! If you have some suggestions for ways in which LWVIN can celebrate or would like to join the state 90th Anniversary Planning Committee, please contact Gail Pebworth (gpebworth@lwvin.org).

Watch for more information from LWVIN and LWVUS!



Save the Date

August 29th and September 12
Southern and Northern Regional Workshops
See page 5 for more information

Local Government Study Begins

By Kathy Dale

2009 Convention adopted: *LWVIN shall study three recommendations of Streamlining Local Government (“Kernan Shepard Report”) as stated in the “New Study Adopted at State Convention” article in this edition of The Voter.*

Several leagues have already begun to gather information about their own local governments: services, costs, and effectiveness. We hope all Leagues will do the same! What would be the impact in your county if any changes to these services were made? Before recommendations can be made, we must first analyze and seek to understand our current realities. Please join us at the Regional Workshops to learn about what other Leagues are doing, how you can participate, and most importantly, what the impact on Indiana will be!

Check out the
LWVIN website:
www.lwvin.org





LET'S SOAR LIKE A COMET!

From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

Have you noticed that League of Women Voters, like Halley's Comet, seems to enter the public consciousness only periodically? With Halley's Comet, the rhythm is about every 76 years. Thank goodness, the cycle for the League is a bit shorter – more like every 4 years, when general elections approach. However, since becoming informed voters and participating as citizens is important *every* day, LWV needs to increase its visibility at every level. To accomplish this, your state Board will work to improve its outreach, and we also will solicit similar action from every local League. We are fortunate to have 2009, when fall elections will be minimal, to inhale deeply and plan for 2010, which will be busier.

90th Anniversary – Next year will be our proud opportunity to blow the League's horn! In February 2010, both the LWVUS (i.e., national) and LWVIN (state) League of Women Voters will celebrate ninety years of existence. That's right, our organization is the direct descendent of the suffrage movement. It coalesced around the goal of informing women so that they could intelligently use their newly-granted privilege, the vote. Of course, celebrations need not happen in February. Perhaps yours will be connected to a new member event, to a screening of *Iron-Jawed Maidens*, to your fundraising social, or to Women's Equality Day. Whenever you recognize this auspicious occasion, enjoy yourselves, feel proud, and notify the local media.

Position Review Committees – Three of our historical LWVIN positions need statewide review committees in the upcoming month: the tax system, school finance, and the motor vehicle licensing system. These topics either failed to attract committees following the 2007 Convention, or their committees were unable to finish the work of reviewing whether the position seems still applicable or needs changes. Each committee needs a chair, plus about four others willing to discuss the details via e-mail. (One interested or expert local League can furnish the entire committee, or the group can consist of Leaguers scattered across the state. For the previously-reviewed positions, there have been committees of both kinds.) With steady effort, most committees can finish the work within two months, forwarding their recommendations to the Board for concurrence distribution to all Indiana Leagues. Please consider helping with this project! It definitely will solidify participants' understanding of at least one state position.

Regional Workshops – The dates for our duplicate workshops are Saturday 29 August (Vincennes) or Saturday 12 September (South Bend). Both days will feature helpful presentations, displays by local Leagues, and opportunities to exchange ideas. *Take the challenge!* Plan now to carpool, so that members of your local group can share ideas while riding there and back. Registration is online or by mail, and the fee (paid at the door) is only \$25.00/person. Many of us have learned techniques at the fall workshops which have helped our Leagues to shine back home!

When members commit themselves to the work of League of Women Voters – celebratory, event-driven, or deliberative – they help the League to continue shining and soaring as a nonpartisan force in a firmament of partisan politics.

Karen Kay

Many members around the state have volunteered their time and energy to the League of Women Voters of Indiana. We would like to thank those women and men for their service. Elections at state convention to committees were for the Nominating Committee were Lisa Plencner (South Bend Area), Jamie Lane (Knox County), Janet Ingram (Cass County), and to the Investment & Development Committee were Betty Lou Nault (LaPorte County), Bonnie Orvick (Knox County), Karen Carter (Elkhart County). New term appointments to committees after the state convention were Pam Locker (Southwestern Indiana), Director; Lynn Hale (Muncie/Delaware County), Budget Committee member; Betty Lou Nault (LaPorte County), Investment & Development Committee chair. Those volunteers completing terms are Kathy Dale (Greater Lafayette), Director; Sandra Grant (Cass County), 2nd Vice-President; and Carrie Sosbe (Montgomery County), Investment & Development Committee member.



Estate Planning?

Please consider a gift of support to the League of Women Voters of Indiana. The League has drawn vital support from the estate plans of members and friends who wish to ensure that the organization continues to flourish. If you are interested in learning more, call 317-241-8683 or email info@lwvin.org.

A Fresh Look at the Hazardous Waste Position By Albrecht Holschuh

Our position on Hazardous Waste has been thoroughly reviewed, strengthened, and clarified. The resulting proposal for concurrence will become available in August. As in all recent concurrences, the local Leagues are invited to raise questions, objections, and other comments concerning any part of the proposed text. After the deadline of **December 31** of this year and on the basis of local League responses, the board will issue the new text. Up to four further calls for concurrence may follow within a year. Indiana may well become the first state ever to complete such an extensive renewal of its basis for action.

Reminder to Local Leagues -- Keep the LWVUS Membership Database Updated

All local Leagues after updating their local League lists with changes in address, email, or membership status, should also go to www.lwv.org and make the same changes to the LWVUS national membership database. This will ensure that all our League members receive their mail from LWVIN and LWVUS. Also, this will guarantee that the February 1st local League member counts will be accurate and each League will be invoiced properly for the annual PMP (per-member-payment) dues.

Need more info? Contact Lorraine Jensen, at ljensen@lwvin.org

New Study Adopted at State Convention

LWVIN shall study the following three recommendations of Streamlining Local Government ("Kernan Shepard Report"):

1. Create a countywide body to oversee the provision of all public safety services;
2. Transfer the responsibilities for administering the duties of township government for assessment, poor relief (township assistance), fire protection, emergency medical services (EMS), cemeteries and any other remaining responsibilities to the county executive. Establish a countywide poor relief levy;
3. Reorganize library systems by county and provide permanent library service for all citizens . . . including a countywide levy for library services.

The Convention Reprise

By Karen Kay Leonard, LWVIN President

The League of Women Voters of Indiana Convention, "League in the Lead," took place May 15-17, 2009, in Indianapolis. Besides Indiana delegates and alternates, the Convention had a special luminary, Mary G. Wilson, President of League of Women Voters of the United States. Mary is as personable and knowledgeable, as one would hope for a national president, and she stayed for the entire weekend. In the most League-like way, Mary carefully informed participants about the national advocacy agenda, including the decision not to press now for single-payer health care. Also in the most League-like way, she listened to delegates object to that decision, agree with that decision, and decide to forward views to national. After attending the Election Reform Committee's workshop, Mary affirmed the important and impressive effort of LWVIN to monitor elections. Such opportunities for discussion and orderly civil conversation are features of which LWV is justifiably proud.

As is true of every LWVIN convention, the body also elected officers and committee members (listed elsewhere in this newsletter), heard a variety of excellent topical speakers and workshop leaders, and affirmed program. Since LWV acts only on issues for which it has a position, the adoption of program is particularly crucial. Here are the position decisions and topics:

The following positions were retained: Nomination of Candidates, Voter Registration, Poll Workers, Dissemination of Voting Information, Election Recounts, Redistricting, Local Government, Local Government Finance, Property Tax Exemption, Juvenile Justice, Pre-Trial Release, Unified Courts and Merit System, Mandatory Kindergarten, Children at Risk, Domestic Violence, Health Care

Two of the three recommendations were adopted:

1. The position on "Hazardous Waste" shall be retained until its concurrence and revision have been completed. The following positions shall be reassigned to committees for review and restudy: Election Procedures; General Assistance; Tax System; School Finance.
2. The position on "Motor Vehicle Licensing System" shall be restudied.
3. The following recommendation was **defeated**: "Illegal Substances" shall be restudied, with a focus on the possible inclusion of substances that are harmful to health but not generally illegal.



Local League Activities Around the State

Bloomington-Monroe County

The LWV of Bloomington-Monroe County celebrated summer at a June picnic with a report on the state LWV convention. Together with Hoosiers for a Common Sense Health Plan, unions, nurses, and others, LWVB-MC members marched in the Bloomington Fourth-of-July parade, handing out, to parade onlookers, more than 2,000 band aids printed with "Health Care for All" and "LWV." In good time for the current health care debate, Lou Malcolm updated the LWVB-MC website (www.bloomington.in.us/~lwv), including, on the home page, the Health Committee's list of current resource material for universal, single-payer health care.

Calumet Area

Almost every month, the federal court house in Hammond, Indiana, hosts a Naturalization Ceremony. An average of 50 people from around the world become citizens of the United States of America at each one. Members of LWV-CA are available after the ceremony to register the new voters. Every year, the City of Hammond, Hammond Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with the Hammond Public Library and the US Immigration and Citizenship, host a naturalization ceremony on July 4th. This past July 4th, 51 new citizens from 21 different countries were welcomed to America. The League was there to register them to vote. We are planning activities for the 2009 – 2010 year which includes celebrating our U. S. Constitution.

Cass County

Cass County voted to have a booth at the 4-H Fair. We had forms to register voters and posters explaining situations that would require a voter registration update. We also conducted a poll consisting of 10 questions. Over 80 people took the survey. The last question which we used in our poll was: Have you ever heard of the League of Women Voters? The fantastic news is that over 95% of those polled have heard of the LWV. Our League has also decided to study the issue of fire territories and the townships.

Elkhart County

The LWV of Elkhart County is getting ready for a new season with a new president. Our kick-off meeting on September 23rd will have a silent auction, which is a significant fund raiser for us. The speaker will be Jay Tidmarsh, Professor of Law at Notre Dame and his topic will be the Fifteenth Amendment-the right to vote. Other programs will be about alternative schools, the census and home health care.

Knox County

The LWV of Knox County welcomed more than ten new members. This number well surpasses our membership goal. Our program goals include: (1) housing improvements

(*Knox County continued*) through alliances with community partners (2) Meth Awareness Education campaign and (3) sponsoring public forums on local and state political issues. Our new work aims to educate residents on Township Trustee Governance. We held one public forum on this topic with township trustees; we are inviting many more people from both sides of the argument to participate in this effort to become informed.

Indianapolis Area

We have elected Erin Kelley, president; Carol Fowler, vice-president; Michelle Rollings, secretary; and Marietta Pesel, treasurer. Sandra Mowell, Membership Chair, has an event planned for August. Jeanne Luke, Voter Service Chair, and Jessica Moore are working on registering voters at naturalization services. Deb Lawrence, Fundraising Chair, is exploring fundable opportunities. Carol Fowler is also Communication/PR Chair and plans a change for a more user-friendly Website. Gin Harris and Phyllis Nieske are coordinating the "Lunch with LWV" monthly speaker series. Ada Shaum is serving as our representative on the "Step Up for Kids" planning committee.

Montgomery County

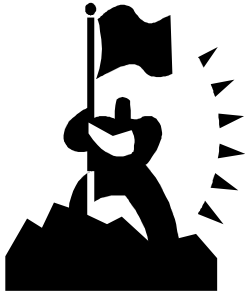
The League sponsored a workshop on "Town Governance and Local Government Funding Sources" in June and had representatives from 8 out of the 10 small towns in MC. The League had informational booths at the Strawberry Festival and county 4-H Fair. The Small Communities Network, composed of communities which have had a least one Build a Better Community forum, met for their quarterly meeting to learn about summer recreational activities for youth.

Muncie-Delaware County

Since April the Muncie-Delaware County League has been actively sponsoring and co-sponsoring programs and guest speakers addressing issues, including Going Green an Economic & Tax Reform. We held our annual dinner with State Senator, Sue Errington, updating us on current legislative issues. Currently, we are a part of the Coalition of Women's Organizations and sponsoring our 17th Women's Equality Day. We are now planning our Annual Garden Party which is always a successful fund raiser event.

Southwestern Indiana

The LWV of Southwestern Indiana presented their second annual Making Democracy Work Award to Vanderburgh County Clerk Susan Kirk, who spearheaded efforts to establish early-voting centers in local public libraries during the last two elections. In the 2007 presidential election, a record 21,000 early votes were cast in this county, preventing long lines on Election Day. New officers installed were Roberta Heiman, president; Donna Leader, vice president; Mary Rutherford, secretary, and Toni Beumer, treasurer.



League of Women Voters of Indiana 2009 Regional Workshops "Take the Challenge"

The League of Women Voters of Indiana invites you to attend a special workshop for all League members. Mark your calendar for one or both of the 2009 Regional Workshops. To make it more convenient for you to participate, the workshops are offered on two dates in different parts of the state. Choose the one that is most convenient for you.

Southern Indiana -- Saturday, August 29 – 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Vincennes University

Fort Sackville Room, Beckes Student Union Building
1003 N 1st Street, Vincennes, Indiana

Northern Indiana -- Saturday, September 12 – 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Ivy Tech Community College

Room 1121, 220 Dean Johnson Blvd., South Bend, Indiana

Local League Displays: Local Leagues are encouraged to bring their displays to showcase their programming and the creative ways that they are promoting the League in their community. There will be time throughout the day to meet members from other Leagues and share ideas.

Agenda– 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Morning

- Registration, Continental Breakfast, Local League Displays
- Welcome and Introductions
- LWVIN Position Review Update
- Local Government Study
- LWVUS 2010 Census as a League Project
- LWVUS Climate Control Initiative Update
- League of Women Voters 90th Anniversary
- Lunch with Speakers – State and National Legislative Update

Afternoon

Roundtable Discussions – Session A

Membership – Recruitment, Involvement, Retention
Speakers Bureau
Effective Local Program

Roundtable Discussions – Session B

Increasing League Visibility
Observer Corps
Leadership Development

Final Remarks

We Need Your RSVP

- REGISTER ONLINE at www.lwvin.org (click on the workshop date you prefer)
- OR send email to event@lwvin.org (include your phone #, email, League name, workshop date)
- OR call 317-241-VOTE (8683)

Fee: \$25.00 per person to be paid for at the workshop.
This fee includes materials and continental breakfast and lunch. **Do not send money!**

Please RSVP By:

- ◀ **August 21 for the August 29 workshop**
- ◀ **September 4 for the September 12 workshop**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS President

Karen Kay Leonard
Indianapolis

First Vice President
Gail Pebworth
Montgomery County

Second Vice President
Sandra Grant
Cass County

Secretary
Carrie Sosbe
Montgomery County

Treasurer
Lorraine Jensen
Hamilton County

DIRECTORS
Judy Buchholz
Vigo County

Kathy Dale
Greater Lafayette

Pat Harris
Bloomington-Monroe
County

Albrecht Holschuh
Bloomington-Monroe
County

Pam Locker
Southwestern Indiana

Nikki Hutchinson
South Bend Area

Dee Naylor
Muncie-Delaware
County

Jeanette Neagu
LaPorte County



IN THIS ISSUE

90th Anniversary Celebration

Local Government Study

President's Report

Hazardous Waste Position

Convention Reprise

Local League Activities

Regional Workshop
Information and Registration

League of Women Voters of Indiana

Mission Statement: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Membership is open to all women and men who are ages 18 years or older and are U.S. citizens. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Activities are funded through membership dues and donations. If you would like to help fund this important work, please send a donation to: LWVIN, 445 N Pennsylvania Street, #910, Indianapolis IN 46204. Checks should be made out to LWVIN. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt. Checks for the Education Fund should be made out to LWVIEF.

For additional information, visit www.lwvin.org.

Submissions to *The Voter* can be sent to
Dee Naylor at dnaylor@lwvin.org
Deadline for Next Submission: January 18, 2010

Editors: Dee Naylor and Carrie Sosbe

League of Women Voters of Indiana®
445 N Pennsylvania Street, #910
Indianapolis IN 46204

