

# THE VOTER



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

AUGUST 2011

## Calendar

### August 20

Northern Regional Workshop  
Ivy Tech, Logansport  
See page 5

### September 10

Southern Regional Workshop  
Ivy Tech, Bloomington  
See page 5

### September 17

State Board Meeting  
LWVIN Office, Indianapolis

### October 24

United Nations Day

### November 19

State Board Meeting  
Telephone Conference

### December 15

Bill of Rights Day

### February 18

Presidents Day  
Location TBA

## Convention Reprise 2011

Karen Kay Leonard, President, LWVIN

If you were in South Bend over Convention weekend, you already know how carefully League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area had prepared for our visit. They had gathered “goodie bags” (which people said were the best ever); helped invite speakers and entertainers; prepared items to sell for local fundraising (T-shirts, buttons, umbrellas, etc.); scheduled helpers for registration and plenary sessions; and planned an evening of food plus get-acquainted games and activities. Many thanks to them from all of us who enjoyed the benefits of their labors!

Even in the brief paragraph above, the objectives of holding a convention are apparent – to become better acquainted, to be inspired, to learn, to share ideas, and to make decisions.

This space is inadequate to enumerate all the ways we accomplished those aims, but a few of the “high points” included: Judge Jenny Manier welcomed us and reminded us of the League's importance as a non-partisan political leader in the community. Associate Professor Elizabeth Bennion summarized activities of women in U.S. Politics. Sara Stewart inspired us with a view into community gardens where public-private partnerships result in cultivated plots tended by a coalition of volunteer gardeners and from which everyone can benefit from fresh food. Pat Donath, our LWVUS liaison, discussed non-partisanship and the power of the vote. Additional learning and inspiration happened as Leaguers shared ideas in “Roundtable Discussions” on various topics or attended break-out workshops of their choice.

What did the Convention decide? We adopted a budget of nearly \$29,000; we amended our Bylaws; and we elected the following officers and committee members for 2011-13: President: Karen Kay Leonard (Indianapolis); First Vice-President: Amy Olson (Indianapolis); Treasurer: Lorraine Jensen (Hamilton Co.); Directors: Shanon O'Toole (Knox Co.), Susanne Gaudin (Brown Co.), Linda Shanks (Bloomington-Monroe Co.); Nominating Committee: Joanne Evers (Greater Lafayette), chair, Lisa Plencner (South Bend Area), Betty Lou Nault (LaPorte Co.).

Where were you? If no one from your League attended Convention 2011, do begin planning now for the regional workshops, Presidents' Day, Council, and LWVUS Convention. Use your regular budget, or conduct the necessary fundraising among your members and friends to support sending delegates to these events. Their experience will enliven your own League, and *your* ideas and advice will benefit other Leagues!



Outgoing and Incoming  
LWVIN Board of Directors



Check out the  
LWVIN website:  
[www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)



## Reflections on Patriotism From the President's Pen

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

What do you think of when someone says *patriotism*? Perhaps you immediately picture those who have served our country in the armed forces. Perhaps Washington, Franklin, Adams, Hamilton, Madison, or other framers of our defining documents leap to mind. Or maybe what occurs to you is the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in your neighborhood, featuring neighbor children on decorated bikes and scooters, following the fire truck.

My view is that patriots candidly participate in the public conversation. *Conversation* is an exchange of views which proves useful only if each participant really listens to what others say and considers those points before delivering a response. *Public* conversation can mean any level, from the neighborhood through the nation; so it might concern whether we fence our yards or park extra vehicles in our drives, or it might entail debating what to teach in public schools or whether the U.S. should support a specific foreign government. *Candid* conversation is difficult to maintain, for it does not allow participants to hide behind vested interests, linguistic smokescreens, or unique word definitions. Instead, in candid conversation, one uses commonly-held definitions and says what one actually thinks – and to do that, of course, one must *think*. As we listen to others, our own ideas may be affected. We may see the value of someone else's complaint. Consequently, we may suggest a solution different from what we had first intended. This, I believe, is how we can best determine the common good, by talking with and listening to one another, in an effort to reach decisions everyone can accept. You have already recognized, of course, that a similar practice has long been a practice of League of Women Voters, as our organization has studied issues and attempted to reach consensus on positions. In our 91-year organizational life, we have established numerous positions at the national, state, and local levels. You know that because, in our local Leagues, we review some positions every year and recommend (to state, national) or decide (locally) whether they should be retained.

Of course, a LWV hallmark is its nonpartisan stance, a badge of which we are very proud. We maintain that by keeping from partisan activity during their terms of LWV office our LWV members who are readily recognized by the public as representatives of the organization. Naturally, that does not include refraining from voting their views, but it does include withholding campaign donations, political endorsements, and other clearly-partisan involvements. Thus the individuals protect the organization's reputation.

Our nonpartisanship enables League of Women Voters to sponsor and engage in important components of the public conversation, such as issue-related public meetings, coalitions of like-minded groups, candidate forums or debates, and testimony at legislative hearings on key issues. In each of these settings, what LWV hopes to engender is patriotism. We want to keep many persons and groups engaged in candid public give-and-take. We want to encourage real listening. True patriots may not find it necessary to wave a flag or to swathe themselves in red, white, and blue, but they must participate in the public conversation. Thank you for the work you do to make this happen in your communities!

*Karen Kay*

**INTERESTED IN HISTORY???** The LWVIN is actively searching for a few Leaguers to assist in the updating of the History of the LWV of Indiana, made possible through generous donations to the **Barbara E. Zimmer Memorial Fund**. We have a wonderful history, 1920-1952, *PAST is PRELUDE* as written by Katherine Croan Greenough and prepared by Donna Langfitt, as well an amazing collection of documents (going back to 1908) catalogued and stored in the Manuscript and Visual Collections Department at the Indiana Historical Society. If LWV history interests you, contact Gail Pebworth at [gpebworth@lwvin.org](mailto:gpebworth@lwvin.org)



## Local League Liaisons

Local League Liaisons are Board members who specifically keep in touch with a local League or MAL unit on behalf of LWVIN. The objective is to make contact monthly, giving local officers the opportunity to make points, seek information, brag on accomplishments, or propose new ideas. Also, of course, we hope each local League will invite the liaison to visit once or twice during the year -- perhaps a board meeting and the Annual Meeting, or, alternatively, a committee gathering and a general meeting or fund-raiser. For the sake of all the League's efforts in Indiana, we look forward to becoming better acquainted with you and with members of your League. You can find contact information for your liaison at [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org).

### Local Leagues

Anderson – Lorraine Jensen  
 Bloomington-Monroe County – Linda Shanks  
 Brown County – Albrecht Holschuh  
 Calumet Area – Gail Pebworth  
 Cass County – Gail Pebworth  
 Elkhart County – Sandy Grant  
 Fort Wayne Area – Kimber Sorenson-Brugh  
 Greater Lafayette – Gail Pebworth  
 Greencastle – Carrie Sosbe  
 Hamilton County – Karen Kay Leonard  
 Indianapolis – Betty Doversberger  
 Knox County – Gail Pebworth  
 LaPorte County – Sandy Grant  
 Montgomery County – Amy Olson  
 Muncie-Delaware County – Kimber Sorenson-Brugh  
 South Bend Area – Barb Phelps  
 Southwestern Indiana – Shanon O'Toole  
 Vigo County – Shanon O'Toole

### MAL Units

Southern Indiana\* – Susanne Gaudin  
 Howard County – Betty Doversberger  
 Porter County – Susanne Gaudin and Gail Pebworth

\*Not yet an official MAL Unit

## New League Development—Jeffersonville/ Clark County

A LWV Informational Meeting was conducted by Susanne Gaudin and Gail Pebworth in Jeffersonville, July 14, following an encouraging “exploratory meeting” in June. Spread the word about the LWV with any friends you might have in Clark County!

## Information on Membership Development

LWVIN Membership Chair, Gail Pebworth

The former Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) launched by the LWVUS in 2006 has been revised and expanded with an added emphasis on Leadership Development. The mission of the League of Women Voters has never been more needed than today. For local Leagues to carry out our mission, we need more members as well ongoing identification and training of local and state leaders.

The first Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Training was held in West Lafayette July 9 with representatives from five Indiana Leagues.



## Program Action and Study at Convention 2011

Our decisions regarding program action and study included:

1. Drop the Motor Vehicle Licensing System position;
2. Restudy Redistricting (to be ready for 2020, as we were not for 2010);
3. Limited Restudy of School Finance issues (especially vouchers);
4. Limited Restudy to Update the LWVIN Hazardous Waste position;
5. Limited Restudy to Update the LWVIN General Assistance position.

If you would like to assist League members in any of the restudies listed above, please email Karen Kay Leonard at [kleonard@lwvin.org](mailto:kleonard@lwvin.org)

LWVIN Membership Support Team members for 2011-2012 are: Susanne Gaudin (Brown County), Shanon O'Toole (Knox County), Gail Pebworth (Montgomery County), and Kimber Sorenson-Brugh (South Bend Area).



## Local League Activities Around the State

### Anderson

We held an informal discussion on educational issues on April 9. Local State Representatives Terri Austin and Scott Reske attended and brought us up to date on legislative action. Some local educators also gave valuable input about problems and possible solutions. Sheryl Monnier and Norma Abbey will serve as Co-Presidents for the coming year.

### Bloomington - Monroe County

Making up for lost time, in April the LWVB-MC held two public Legislative Updates with area representatives to the General Assembly. We continued an ongoing activity monitoring the process for establishing a county storm water fee. In June, we distributed the 2011 edition of its *Monroe County Governmental Officials List*. This list is used by many throughout the city and county. Recently, several League members were appointed to a Monroe County committee charged with selecting appropriate locations for vote centers that would replace the current cumbersome system of 67 precinct polling sites.

### Brown County

Our League had a booth exhibit at the April Health Fair and Earth Day. We stressed the National and State positions plus our own Health and Wellness position. Earth Day was an opportunity to inform folks of how the EPA regulations will be weakened. In late July, we will have a booth at the 4-H Fair with a history of the 40 years of our League.

### Elkhart County

The Elkhart board is evaluating convention information and preparing the programs for 2011-2012. Needless to say, these things are keeping us busy. The new board members are really working hard. We will keep you posted on our progress.

### Fort Wayne Area

The program schedule for next year: August: Writing effective letters to the editor in cooperation with the YWCA and the Women's Bureau meeting on August 23 at the downtown library. Stacey Stumpff will be our speaker. Stacey works in the editorial department of the Journal Gazette. September: Health Care Reform Program. October: and November: candidate forums. December: Participate in Immigration Day. February: Annual dinner celebrating the founding of the LWV. March: Campaign finance reform. April: Legislative Round Up and Voters Rights. May—Annual Meeting. We will be discussing starting an Observer Corp.

### Greater Lafayette

The monthly "This is Your Community" brown bag lunches will restart in August and go through May of 2012. Our 2011-12 Community Events calendar and primary fundraiser will

### (Greater Lafayette continued)

head to the printer soon. The new membership chair is organizing voters' registration/LWV information tables at our downtown festivals, and we are co-hosting forums this fall for mayoral and city council candidates. Our annual summer picnic is August 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are in the Lafayette area, feel free to stop by Happy Hollow Park and join us for lunch!

### Hamilton County

Our league hosted three mayoral candidate forums for Carmel, Noblesville and Westfield. Westfield's forum was in the city hall and it was filled to capacity with people standing outside. Westfield's primary resulted in a close electoral count between the two candidates. Our moderator, Janet Chandler, did an excellent job in handling the forums. This was covered in the local newspaper. Our league celebrated with Janet on her recent graduation from law school at IUPUI with a special recognition at our annual dinner meeting.

### Indianapolis

We held our annual meeting in early June at the Indiana History Center. Newly elected board members Becca Loofbourrow and Anne Nation were welcomed onto the board while outgoing members Deb Lawrence and Vada Kim were thanked for their service. A "Leadership Committee" was elected into office. Erin Kelley, Carol Fowler, Amy Olson, and Kendra Clauser will divide the core duties of running the LWV (Communications, Voter Service, Membership, & Event Planning, respectively) with a support team of other board members assisting. Our hope is better to divide and share the work!

### Montgomery County

The LWVMC hosted a public forum on Redistricting in April, featuring the documentary film "Gerrymandering", followed by discussion and distribution of educational materials. Also in April, we staffed a "Voting Booth" during our local Business & Professional Women's annual "Reality Store" event, where all county 8<sup>th</sup> graders participate in a simulation of adult life. In May, we held our Annual Meeting, which featured a recently retired county judge as our guest speaker. He was the recipient of our "Making Democracy Work" award earlier in the year, and spoke about his years on the bench.

### Muncie-Delaware County

Since April we have had our Annual Dinner/Business Meeting when we elected new officers. Our new officers are Dee Naylor and Bea Sousa - Co-Presidents; Sharon Cheslik - Vice - President; Diane Frankland - Secretary; and Diane Frye - Treasurer. We are currently planning a Board Retreat, Candidate Forums, Garden Party Fundraiser, By-laws Review and selecting current topics for our programs. We are also writing the LWV Muncie-Delaware County Information Manual. This manual will serve as a vehicle to share pertinent "how to" information for various activities and functions of the Board and membership.



## Local League Activities Around the State continued

### Southwestern Indiana

In June, we elected officers: President - Leslie Simmons; VP - Pam Locker; Treasurer - Toni Beumer; Secretary - Gisela Fischer; and enjoyed Roberta Heiman's update on the local Trails Coalition, which recently had a successful fest for pedestrians and bikers. LWVSWIN continues to impact local conversation on city-county government merger; elected officials have adopted several of our recommendations for their plan. Upcoming events include: publicly broadcast debates for city and county elections; lunches featuring mayoral candidates; evening gatherings for our members; and an "Issues and Actions" forum.

### Vigo County

Legislative Updates, candidate forums, and a voter registration drive were conducted during April and May. Plans for the annual August summer social have been finalized and we are looking forward to voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts for fall. Our group will sponsor a "float" with bunting, banner, and tossing candy to onlookers in ISU's Homecoming Parade this year. We will collaborate with Vigo County Public Library, Wabash Valley Central Labor Council, Vigo County School Corporation, and Taxpayers Association for Legislative Updates during Fall/Spring legislative sessions.

## League of Women Voters of Indiana 2011 Regional Workshops

Every LWV member is invited to the fall workshops. Each workshop gives Leaguers a chance to talk together about specific topics, such as: How LWV as an organization recommends dealing with social media? How can we navigate the new LWV.org website? What are the best practices and policies for candidates forums and debates? How can we engage League members without wearing them out? A few experts and many experienced Leaguers produce a rich stew of discussion ideas. Come be a part of the experience. **We are also asking all participants with a laptop to bring their laptops for interactive workshops.**



Our guest speaker at both workshops will be Victor Smith, a retired teacher, who will discuss the federal role in public education.

**Northern Indiana -- Saturday, August 20 – 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**  
Ivy Tech Community College, Logansport, Indiana

**Southern Indiana -- Saturday, September 10 – 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM**  
Ivy Tech Community College, Bloomington, 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.

### We Need Your RSVP

- REGISTER ONLINE at [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org) (click on the workshop date you prefer)
- OR send email to [event@lwvin.org](mailto:event@lwvin.org) (include your phone number, 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, lunch, any site costs, and speaker expenses. Please do not send money! Please RSVP by August 12 for the August 20 workshop and September 2 for the September 10 workshop.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# 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 deductible. Checks for the Education Fund should be made out to LWVIEF.

For additional information, visit [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)

Submissions to *The Voter* can be sent to  
Dee Naylor (dnaylor@lwvin.org)  
Deadline for Next Submission: September 23, 2011

Editors: Dee Naylor and Carrie Sosbe

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