

# THE VOTER



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANA

## Calendar

### April 5

LWVIN Board Meeting  
10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
United Way Building,  
Indianapolis

### April 25-26

LWVIN State Council  
Ball State University-  
Muncie

### April 26

LWVIN Board Meeting  
following State Council

### May 6

Indiana Primary

### May 17

LWVIN Board Retreat/  
Scheduling  
9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

### June 13-17

LWV Convention  
Portland, Oregon

## Check out the LWVIN website

Update about Health Access  
and Privacy Alliance  
(HAPA)

LAN Weekly Updates



APRIL 2008

## LWVIN: Meet us in Muncie

LWVIN State Council is scheduled for April 25 & 26 in Muncie, IN. The LWV of Muncie-Delaware County is hosting an entertaining and informative weekend. Be sure to register by April 11 for State Council.

The early morning program will focus on the Vote Center concept. The Tippecanoe County Clerk, Linda Phillips and the Wayne County Chief Deputy Clerk, Joanne Stewart will share their experience and knowledge of the rationale and operation of a Vote Center. Although the 2008 General Assembly did not approve Vote Centers for broader use, Cass County was selected as an additional pilot county. Come learn how it worked in the first two pilot counties.

The environment and alternative energies are popular and necessary topics of discussion. The LWVIN Natural Resources Committee is presenting two exceptional speakers at the Council you won't want to miss. Please refer to the Natural Resources article in the Voter for details.

Local Leagues, remember you may send the president or designate and two additional delegates to the Council. There is business to attend to during the plenary sessions. It is important that all the local Leagues are represented. You may send as many observers as you like to participate in the weekends' activities. Members-at-large please come to Council as observers.

Meet us in Muncie. Join the fun. We will miss you if you do not come.



## The LWVIN Legislative Action Network Session Wrap-up

by Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator

In 2007 the LWVIN Board of Directors identified Election Processes, Taxation, Health and Management of Lake Michigan, and Reproductive Rights & Sexuality Education as the legislative priorities for the second session of the 115th General Assembly. The session started early. Bills were filed and hearings began December 3rd on HB1001, property tax reform. In January when the session was called to order, the work of following bills related to the legislative priorities began.

LWVIN successes: testimony in support of SB45, the Great Lakes Compact, was the first opportunity for action. The bill was the first passed from committee, from the Senate, from the House and signed by the Governor. Indiana is the third of the Great Lakes states to pass comprehensive Compact legislation.

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## From the President, Joanne Evers

Dear League of Women Voters of Indiana,

It is a pleasure to greet you once again in the LWVIN Voter. There is so much going on that I hardly know where to begin. Certainly this election year we will be challenged in our communities to bring the best voting information we can to the citizens of Indiana. Not only will we be challenged to increase voter registration but we must be vigilant to inform registered voters to have accepted voter identification with them on Election Day. You can obtain the 2008 Voter Information Guide prepared by the Indiana Election Division from your county clerks. Voter registration and voter information is what we do better than any other organization. I encourage you to take every opportunity throughout the spring, summer and fall to increase registered voters all over the state.

State Council is just around the corner. Each local League may send their president or designate and two other delegates to participate in the work of the Council. Members-at-large please consider attending State Council. We want to hear from you. If you are a delegate, be sure to obtain a copy of the 2008-2009 proposed budget and the nomination slate from your local League president. Observers are also welcome to council. Check out the article and registration information inside the Voter.

National Convention is in Portland, Oregon, from June 13-17. Local Leagues need to be making plans now to register delegates. Check the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) website for detailed information. The activity, the learning, the sharing and the camaraderie that takes place in such a short period of time is outstanding. You do not want to miss this opportunity. There will be a review of what to expect at National Convention scheduled at our State Council Friday evening. This will be a great time to prep for Convention and see who else will be attending.

Presidents Day was a success. My thanks goes out to all who prepared the day for our members and to all who traveled far and wide to participate. The powerful change you are effecting in your communities and across the state is inspiring. To learn more about the day check out the article inside the Voter.

The 2008 General Assembly is ended and our legislative coordinator has provided you with a summary of our involvement. It is never too late to get involved with the Legislative Action Network (LAN) and help LWVIN speak with one voice across Indiana and in the State House. There is much to do even in the summer as legislators participate in study committees to prepare for next year. Contact Paulette at [pvandergriff@lwvin.org](mailto:pvandergriff@lwvin.org) to assist with the advocacy efforts of LWVIN. Check out Erin Kelley's comments on legislation related to reproductive rights on the LWVIN website.

See you in Muncie and Portland!

*Joanne*

### Election Reform Committee

During the last three years, thousands of surveys have been completed by poll workers and poll watchers from various Indiana Leagues. These surveys identified problems at polling places throughout the state that impacted the experiences of voters and the vote count. The Election Reform Committee sent all the League Presidents a report of its finding and the summary is available to all League members. We have learned that some polling places in the 2007 elections never opened and that at least one License Bureau never sent the registration cards to the Election Board. Currently the committee is encouraging Leagues to participate in the Spring Primary surveys as Poll Watchers, Poll workers and/or Exit Surveyors. The committee will be checking on the number of provisional ballots issued which are actually counted. Finally, the committee is exploring the concept of same day registration. Leagues in other States where that is allowed have been very pleased with this system which on average shows an increase in voting by twelve percent.

If you are interested in seeing that every vote is counted in Indiana, please contact Jeanette Neagu, Election Reform Chair at [jneagu@lwvin.org](mailto:jneagu@lwvin.org).

### Looking for a few good Leaguers! Share your expertise

- **Directors** on state board for one or two year appointments. Up to seven directors can be appointed. Contact Joanne Evers, [jeverson@lwvin.org](mailto:jeverson@lwvin.org).
- **Assistant Treasurer** to manage the education fund and will work under the direction of the state board treasurer. Responsibility includes communication with local Leagues, disbursing funds for projects, preparing education fund budget. Contact Lorraine Jensen, [ljensen@lwvin.org](mailto:ljensen@lwvin.org).



## Important Announcements and Upcoming Events

### LWVBMC Proposes Update of LWVUS Health Care Position

The League's national position on health care was last updated over 15 years ago. Developments in health care and changing public attitudes call for review of this vital issue. The LWVBMC is proposing a number of changes to be considered at the LWVUS convention this summer.

These changes include expanding the basic level of quality care to include chronic care and medications; the sections on Financing and Administration be separated with an emphasis on universal single-payer as the preferred plan; preventive care and the promotion of healthy life styles be added to the Cost Control section in addition that reimbursement levels to providers reflect reasonable levels of pay.

To obtain this modified text which also includes some suggestions for dropping items no longer applicable and clarification for dropping the final paragraph email [lwv@bloomington.in.us](mailto:lwv@bloomington.in.us). The current LWVUS position on health care is available [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

The Investment and Development Committee thanks all who contributed to our Fall Fund Drive. Your generosity is appreciated. Your belief in the mission and work of the League is critical to our having the resources available to our Leaders to move the League's positions from Study to Action. We thank you!

### Indiana Voter ID Law

Yes, we had our day in court and it was an exciting adventure for those who attended the oral arguments on the Indiana Voter ID Law Suit in the Supreme Court of the



United States on January 9, 2008. League members attending included Tracy Heaton de Martinez, president of the LWV of Indianapolis, Jean and Ron Andres and Joanne Evers of LWV of

Greater Lafayette. Jean and Joanne also serve on the state board of directors of LWVIN. The LWVIN lawyer, Karen Celestino-Horseman and her colleagues who assisted her in drafting the brief for the League also attended. We could not have been more proud to hear the content of our brief referred to by the justices on several occasions. The ruling is not expected to come down until late May or early June 2008. You can be sure that the court's response will have a lasting impact on election law across the country. We were proud to see history in the making.

### Indiana Debate Commission

Work of the Indiana Debate Commission (IDC) is progressing. The board of directors was formed in January 2008. At present Deb Lawrence of LWV of Indianapolis serves on the board to maintain the interests of the LWV. Deb is currently employed with Marian College in Indianapolis as the Special Assistant to the President for Community Engagement. LWVIN appreciates Deb's commitment to IDC on our behalf.

The IDC board will meet and work to arrange gubernatorial debates for the 2008 elections. Deb will keep us informed. You can also follow the planning on the Indiana Debate Commission Website at <http://indianadebatecommission.com>. The commission is looking for three different venues across the state. There are specific needs for the venues which are described on the website. Perhaps your community could identify a location to host a debate.

LWVIN would like to thank Melissa Durr (LWV of Hamilton County and past state president of LWVIN) who initially represented LWVIN on the committee which created the IDC. It is dedicated volunteers like Deb and Melissa who make The League of Women Voters of Indiana strong and visible in the state and in the local communities.

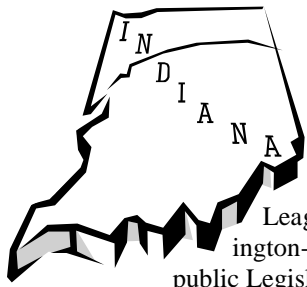
### Lake Michigan Interleague Organization



The League of Women Voters of Indiana and the Leagues of Elkhart, Porter, Lake, and LaPorte Counties as well as the Calumet Area

League are all members of The Lake Michigan Interleague Organization which has been actively working for over thirty years to

protect and preserve Lake Michigan. Recently, the Indiana Leagues sent Janet Greenwald (LaPorte), Mary Jo Gorman (Calumet), Paulette Vandegriff (Indiana) and Jeanette Neagu, (Co-President of LMILO) to Washington for Great Lakes Day. They met with three Congressmen and staff of the six other Congressmen as well as Senators Lugar and Bayh's aides to lobby for the funds necessary to implement the Great Lakes Strategy. Jeanette reported, "Senator Lugar's staff, Congressman Donnelly and the staff of Congressman Visclosky were well informed on the issues facing the Great Lakes. The rest of the Indiana Congressional Delegation have not been significantly involved in these problems, and we were able to educate them on the treatment of ballast water to reduce the introduction of new aquatic invasive species into the Lakes and the need to support the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resource Compact which will place limits on the amount of water that can be diverted out of the water basin. The President's proposed budget would reduce the amount of monies available for restoration of the Lakes. Healing our Waters Coalition, which LWVIN recently joined, is advocating for more monies for the restoration of the Lakes



## Local League Activities

### Bloomington-Monroe County

Starting off the new year, the League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County sponsored a public Legislative Update session in January, at which state Senator Vi Simpson and Representatives Matt Pierce and Peggy Welch brought the audience up to date on deliberations at the State House. In February, the LWVB-MC celebrated the birthday of the League, with birthday cake at program-planning unit meetings and a brief history of the local league in its monthly League Letter. In March, the League invited two young women from the community to be its guests at Bloomington's annual Women's History Month Luncheon, and contributed to the honorarium for speaker Allida Black. March also brought a public meeting on "Waste Management Policy and Recycling Issues." Planned for the end of the month is the final Legislative Update, at which the activities of the short session will be summarized. Looking ahead to the LWVUS convention, the LWVB-MC will submit a request to make some changes to the national Health Care position. Together with the LWVIN, it will also submit two proposals to amend the national bylaws: (1) to clarify the section on setting the dates of regular and emergency councils; and (2) to allow for staggered terms of officers and directors.

Nancy Boerner

### Brown County

The Brown County League has planned the primary candidate's forums and questions for the newspaper supplement. The establishment of a county wide Fire District is awaiting a judgment from the State Court of Appeals. This was a part of our local League position on emergency services in the county, formed twelve years ago. Currently we are involved with, and will help facilitate, "Brown County 2020- a Vision For the Future."

Janet Kramer

### Calumet Area

The LWV of Calumet Area conducts voter registration for new citizens following the impressive Naturalization Service held at the Hammond Federal Building. Leaguers are introduced from the podium and membership information is available. The next Naturalization Service at which Leaguers will be registering new citizens will be April 16.

February 9 a large percentage of the membership gathered at a Chili Supper for program planning at all levels. April 24 the program will feature "Juvenile Justice and the Zero Tolerance Policy."

### Cass County

The LWV of Cass County has been busy these past two months. January was riddled with poor weather, but we did manage to squeeze in Lunch with League between snowstorms. A representative from Emergency Management spoke about the importance of disaster preparedness.

February proved to be an exciting month. We finished our first consensus! Sandy Grant did a wonderful job of leading us through this process. A million thanks to Sandy for all of her hard work. We also celebrated LWV's birthday that evening with coffee and cake. Wow – coffee, cake and consensus...I see a new trend in our future!

The highlight of the month was the public presentation by former Governor Joe Kernan who spoke on the Kernan-Shepherd Commission's recommendations, commonly referred to as "We Can't Keep Governing Like This." Governor Kernan shared the highlights of the report and entertained questions. Everyone in attendance agreed this was a valuable and educational session, and it was covered on the front page of the Logansport Pharos Tribune.



Cass County held a Membership Recruitment Coffee March 8 and viewed "Iron-Jawed Angels" on March 18th.

Pam McKinney

### Greencastle

The Greencastle League of Women Voters is currently working with several other organizations in the community on the Read To Understand project. The purpose of this project is to further the discussion on race and white privilege with the hope that we can make our community more inclusive and welcoming. The organizations are giving away copies of the book, Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum and sponsoring small group discussions that will take place this summer.

### Hamilton County

Hamilton County will conduct Voter Registration April 7th (last day to register) at the Hamilton County Judicial Center. The LWV is co-sponsoring with the White River Township Advisory Board a School Board Candidates Forum April 16 for candidates for the White River Township School Board. The League is also co-sponsoring with the Hamilton County Bar Association a Candidates Forum April 22 for opposed candidates for Circuit Court Judge, Hamilton County Commissioner and County Council.

Lorraine Jensen

## Around the State

### Elkhart County

Our Kickoff Luncheon, combined with a silent auction, was very successful. We begin each year with a program featuring one of the amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Our speaker is often from the University of Notre Dame Law School, and we distribute small copies of the Constitution provided by one of the Federal Judges. The silent auction is a good fundraiser.

In October, we sponsored two Political Forums which were well attended. In November, we sponsored an Education Luncheon; and of course, December is Legislative Luncheon time. In January, we had a wonderful program on Health Care in the United States. Our Congressman came to our luncheon and delivered a great presentation in February. There was a large crowd, and six or seven people joined that day. March brought a program on Gun Control and in April our Elkhart County Prosecuting Attorney will present a program on Juvenile Justice.

In May, we will have our Annual Meeting and a program on Global Climate Change. So, you see, we had quite a full year. We are indeed fortunate to have such good committee chairs and guest speakers who never turn us down or charge a fee. We do our planning in June for the entire year. Also, in March we send out Finance Drive letters.

Shirley Gold

### Greater Lafayette

Our League is co-sponsoring a class with WALLA (Wabash Area Lifelong Learning) on Election Issues and 45 people signed-up. Topics include the Electoral College, Voting Machines, Voter Fraud and Voter IDs and Vote Centers. We will also co-sponsor the fall state legislative candidate's forum with them. Work on a power point presentation about the League is close to completion and ready to debut for local groups. Our hope is to have a "speakers' bureau" available – members who are willing to give the presentation and answer questions about the League.

Our president has sent a letter to the editor of our local paper for the last two months, and both have been published and have garnered positive comments.

Because of a major snow storm, we rescheduled the universal healthcare forum to April 29, which is Cover the Uninsured Week. Talk about luck! Previously we have had no programs during the summer months, but this July our League will have a program on water quality in Tippecanoe County, given by Dr. Jane Frankenberger, a LWVGL board member, and Purdue professor. We will have a speaker at our Constitution Day presentation of the Making Democracy Work Award.

Our May Annual Meeting will feature Gail Pebworth from the state board who will energize us with her message of "The League - Great at 88".

Jean Andres

### Indianapolis

The February 15th Lunch with the League featured Janet McCabe speaking on "Improving Kids Environment." The Indianapolis lunches are held on the third Fridays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Truman Room of the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian. Future lunches are scheduled for April 18 and May 16.

March 13 the LWV joined with the Indianapolis Branch of the AAUW and Church Women United for a pitch-in and shared program on Immigration featuring Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez, Associate Executive of the Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

An evening Coffee Klatch was held February 15 at Marian College's library to discuss the 2008 Indiana Legislative session. Another Coffee Klatch was enjoyed March 24, and a third is scheduled for April 28. Members gathered on February 23 to discuss national and local program planning. The Annual Meeting will be held May 3 at 10 a.m. in the MCL Cafeteria at 86th & Township Line Road.

### Knox County

Lunch with the League at the Library featured January 28th – "Impact of the Neighborhood Watch Groups" with Randy Crismore and associates, February 25th – "Life After Meth – LAM" with Peter Haskins, March 24th – "Knox County Convention and Visitors Bureau" with Shyla Beam, and April 28th will be "Clark Extended Ed Program" with Tom Nonte and Ann Hecht.

2008 Meet Your Legislators live broadcast from studios of WVBT at Davis Hall, VU 9:00 a.m. – Saturdays January 26 – sponsor LWV, February 23 – sponsor PACE, and Legislative Wrap-up March 29 – sponsor Chamber.

Town Meeting — A Vision for Knox County. The LWV of Knox County's position statement on a Vision for Knox County's Future to the community was introduced to the community at a Town Meeting, Thursday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. at the George Rogers Clark Memorial Visitor's Center Auditorium. Guest Speaker was Phillip G. Anderson, Executive Director, Indiana Rural Development Council and guest Sarah Yeager, Education and Training Director, Building Better Communities, Ball State University. The presentations were centered around how to identify and convene stockholders to .

affect change. Small group discussion and reporting back to the participants followed Mr. Anderson's presentation.

Bonnie Orvick



### National Convention June 13-17, 2008

Plan now to send delegates to the National Convention in Portland, Oregon, June 13-17, 2008. Information is on the LWVUS website at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). You'll be glad you did!

## More Local League Activities

### La Porte County

Lake Michigan and the political and environmental issues that involve the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan occupy a large portion of our local agenda. The exciting part of this is that we are a part of a diverse, articulate and politically savvy coalition of organizations. We all know that change takes time, and some of those opposed to change have lots of power and deep pockets. We are very heartened by the positive response of our Legislature and our Governor.

The Immigration Study was exciting and a very "Leaguey" undertaking. We have many younger members who have never participated in a Big national study. And it is big! At our consensus meeting, we had a fair representation of members and four guests who want to join.

Now we move on to Legislative wrap-ups; Local Program Planning; and the Annual Meeting. It was, as always, good to see and hear from other Leagues at the Every Member Workshop and at Presidents Day. I look forward to seeing you at Council.

Betty Lou Nault

### Montgomery County

In January, we held a pitch-in dinner to discuss National Program Planning. After eating and socializing, we broke into four discussion tables to review the four areas of national program, with each table reporting back their comments and suggestions to the entire group. Also in January, we attempted to bring in Dr. Rob Stone for a public meeting on "Healthcare for All", but unfortunately we had to cancel due to a winter storm. We are hoping to reschedule his talk for this summer.

In February, we hosted the annual "Observer Reports" meeting, where our 25-member Observer Corps reported on the activities of the 20 boards that we observe. Following a catered dinner, we heard oral reports from each of our observers. Each observer also prepares a more detailed written report for our historical archives.

This is always one of our most popular meetings of the year, and we often get ideas for future local program, as we get to hear what's really been going on behind the scenes of our local government.

Three "Lunch with the League" sessions were held this winter. In early February, we heard from Crawfordsville's newly elected mayor, and in early March, we invited the Executive Director of our local hospital (St. Clare's) to speak with the community about the medical facility's expansion plans. Both talks were well received by our membership and community, and got front page newspaper coverage. Topic for April is "Producing Ethanol in Montgomery County."

We co-sponsored with the American Red Cross a public informational meeting March 20 on Emergency Management in Montgomery County with a panel representing the Red Cross, Public Health, County Crisis Team, Fire Department, First Responders, Law Enforcement and the Schools.

Montgomery County continued...

April 17, the Montgomery County LWV will co-sponsor with the Chamber of Commerce a Candidates Forum featuring debates among candidates for County Commissioner and then candidates for County Council and a "Meet and Greet" with the candidates for school boards of the three school corporations in the county. April 28, the LWV will provide a "Register and Vote" booth at the BPW's Reality Store for all 8th graders in the county.

Sue Anne Gilroy will speak at the May Annual Meeting about the proposed reforms recommended in the Local Government Reform Commission's report "Streamlining Local Government: We've Got to Stop Governing Like This."

Kathy Brown

### Porter County

Porter County has looked at the water quality of Lake Michigan, followed the actions of the LMILO and most recently listened to Kim Ferraro, Executive Director, Legal Environmental Aid Foundation located here in Valparaiso. She is a recent Valparaiso University Law graduate and is working with the various environmental groups which have been following the BP emissions permitting. Kim directed our attention to a recent FORBES Magazine Report "Indiana ranks #2 in the nation for pollution of air and water to which citizens are exposed." Yesterday in our local paper I saw another report that Indiana is #4 in the nation in the production of pollution (coal plants, etc.). This is hardly an attraction for either business or residents. New technology is available (ask Purdue U.) and application of it would create jobs as well as improve environment. Yes, it costs money, but so do health issues and loss of environment.

Martha Willis

### South Bend Area

This spring our League is planning one new project, continuing our involvement with the Community Forum on Economic Development and working to revive our Lunch with the League series.

On March 29, we are co-sponsoring Prepare Run Win, a Campaign College for Women, from 8:30 AM - 2:00 P.M.. The location is the Student Activity Center, Room 221, Indiana University South Bend. The workshop will offer up-to-the-minute information on the changing face of women running for office. Participants will learn how to put together a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign, raise funds like a pro and master media relations. Prepare Run Win is for women who are ready to run for elected office, may consider running in the future or who would like to work on a campaign, become a political activist and build their leadership skills.

Our League will also co-sponsor the Third Annual Community Forum on Economic Development on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

## Around the State

South Bend Area continued...

In late spring, we are planning to bring back our Lunch with the League series. Proposed topics for discussion include: the Great Lakes issues, health care reform and the impact of property tax reform on funding for education.

Nikki Hutchinson

### Southwestern Indiana

Since December, we have welcomed four new League members. Letters have gone out to everyone whose memberships are up for renewal.

An average of 80 citizens attended each of the four Meet Your Legislature sessions. These were taped and aired on the local PBS station. In addition, our website at [www.lwvswin.org](http://www.lwvswin.org) featured links to important websites and ongoing news headlines on both the Property Tax Relief Plan and the Kernan Shepard Report, as well as written summaries of the MYL sessions. We also set up a table with our new membership display board, along with voter registration forms and membership pamphlets, at each of the sessions.

The day that the Supreme Court considered Indiana's Voter ID Law, one of the local TV stations contacted SWIN for an interview. In addition, they wanted to find someone in our area who had been adversely affected by the law. We weren't able to accomplish the latter -- given the narrow time frame -- but we did manage to connect them to some good information on the Indiana League website. The resulting news report was fair to both sides of the issue. Two local organizations invited our participation. Several of our members set up a voter registration table at the Ivy Tech Diversity Day, and two members conducted a workshop on women's involvement in government at the annual Girls in Bloom event for middle school girls.

As one of five local Leagues involved in the MRI, we are focused on the many pieces of the project. Luckily, one of our members, Kathy Solecki, is a co-coordinator for the state. A Making Democracy Work committee has been formed and is working on the details of bestowing this award on a worthy citizen.

As far as primary election activities, we plan on holding one or two candidate forums at noontime in March or April. In addition, we will send out information to all members about how they can help with voter registration, absentee balloting, at the polls, etc. As soon as the primaries end, we hope to start planning for the 8th Congressional District debate in conjunction with the Vincennes and Terre Haute Leagues. And we are looking forward to working with Channel 9 this fall on live candidate debates.

Finally, two local members are chairing the committee that is looking at the State League positions on local government finance and property tax exemptions -- tricky issues given all the changes we have seen and will continue to see this year.

Pam Locker

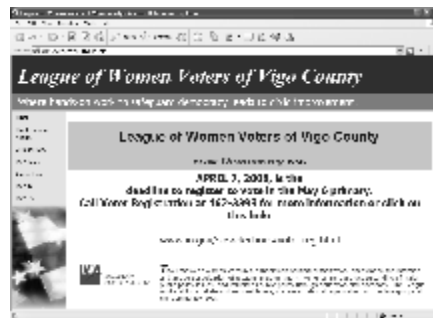
### Vigo County

From the Red Hat Society to the North, South and West Vigo High School students, the League of Women Voters of Vigo County is reaching out and collaborating with other groups to increase voter registration.

On March 15, we conducted a county-wide voter registration drive with the help of more than 15 organizations. Voter registration tables were set up at 28 locations throughout the county. Voter registration workers came from the three high schools and various county organizations. Each organization provided two workers for each 2-hour shift. This collaborative effort has proven successful in the past, increasing the visibility of the League and providing a great public service. Geri Black, Vigo County League board member, was the organizing hand behind the drive. This marks the fourth county-wide drive for the League and Geri has organized them all.

We have co-sponsored with the Vigo County Library and several other organizations, the monthly legislative Cracker Barrels, at which the area legislators talk about what's going on during the session. These are well-attended and interesting sessions -- a chance to engage our representatives in a conversation about the matters of the state.

On April 15, the Vigo County League once again will be in the voter registration business, setting up a table during Terre Haute Human Rights Day on the Indiana State University campus.



The Vigo County League also has a new Website. Check us out at [www.lwvligocounty.org](http://www.lwvligocounty.org).

Judy Buchholz

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**LWVIN has a new postal and email address!**

Send mail to:  
 3921 North Meridian Street, Suite 225  
 Indianapolis, IN 46208-4066  
 Send email to: [info@lwvin.org](mailto:info@lwvin.org)

Visit us online at for  
 Legislative Action Network updates:  
<http://www.lwvin.org/>

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## Celebration: Presidents Day by Sheridan Hadley

Presidents Day 2008 was a time of sharing, education, and celebration. Thirty-three LWV members representing thirteen of eighteen local Leagues gathered in Indianapolis at the Environmental Management Institute on February 9. LWVIN president Joanne Evers welcomed everyone and introduced past State presidents and State Board members.

Former State Senator and present Marion County Library Board Chair, Louis Mahern, was the keynote speaker. His topic "Streamlining Local Government: We Must Stop Governing Like



This" provided interesting background information on the report from the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, of which Mr. Mahern was a member.

A report from the LWV Legislative Action Network Coordinator, Paulette Vandegriff, encouraged League members to engage in serious discussions about the possible outcomes of the current debate over property tax relief and government restructuring.

Lunchtime centered around today's challenges for local Leagues, fund raising strategies, communicating with legislators, and using Local League Liaisons as communication links between local Leagues and the State Board. State Board members Jim Faber and Albrecht Holschuh joined other Board members in leading these discussions.

Thirty minute afternoon breakout sessions allowed time for those in attendance to participate in a variety of workshops. State Treasurer Lorraine Jensen provided a National Membership Database tutorial. Joanne and LWVIN Secretary Karen Kay Leonard gave basic information for how to build a dynamic local board. Gail Pebworth and Kathy Solecki, Indiana Coordinators of the national Membership Recruitment Initiative, directed a membership workshop. Sheridan Hadley and Carrie Sosbe presented "A Public Relations Guide for Local Leagues."

Joanne encouraged those in attendance to consider becoming State Board members and to recommend other leaders to serve the League of Women Voters on this level. Gail wrapped up the meeting by urging all to continue our work for good government through education and advocacy, and to invite others in our communities to join with us in actively affecting positive change at the local, state, and national levels. The day ended with delicious birthday cake to celebrate the 88th birthday of the League of Women Voters, which was founded on February 14, 1920.



## It's Not That Easy Being Green by Austin Brooks, Chair

Most everyone recognizes the first line of the song made famous by the Muppet, Kermit the frog back in the 1970's. While Kermit first laments the fact that he is not a bright flashy color by the end of the song he recants when he says "I am green and it'll do fine, it's beautiful! And I think it's what I want to be." Today the word "green" and hence the song takes on a new meaning related to our fragile environment. We should all want to be green!

Unfortunately Indiana is not very green at all. In fact we have little to be proud of relative to our State's environmental quality. Last October, Forbes magazine published their list of the "greenest states." Indiana ranked a dismal 49th in the ratings. Only West Virginia tallied a worst score. As we might expect Vermont, Oregon, and Washington topped the list. Why is Indiana next to the bottom? What can we do about it? These and other important questions related to our natural resources and the environment will be addressed at the LWVIN State Council on April 25-26 at Ball State University in Muncie.



Mr. Jesse Kharbanda will speak Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 A. M. on the topic: "Creating a Sustainable Vision for Indiana" Mr. Kharbanda, the Executive Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council received his undergraduate education at the University of Chicago with majors in both economics and environmental science. He also studied at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

In the afternoon on April 26, beginning at 2:30 P.M., Mr. Paul Cummings, Program Manager of the Renewables and Energy Efficiency of the Indiana Office of Energy and Defense Development will speak on "Alternative Energy Opportunities in Indiana." Mr. Cummings has a bachelors degree from DePauw University and a master degree in environmental science from Indiana University.

The Natural Resources/Environment Committee of the LWVIN is excited about the program for this year's Council meeting. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn where we are headed as a state with respect to crucial environmental issues.

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### The LWVIN Legislative Action Network Session Wrap-up

(Continued from Page 1)

Abortion bills including SB 3, Dispensing of Drugs by Pharmacists, SB146, Information preceding an abortion, SB187, mandating school corporations to teach fetal development in health classes, all failed. "Poison pill" amendments meant to kill a bill, were attached to a variety of health related bills and the bills died.

HB1001, Property tax relief was enacted, but reform, not so much. This will be an ongoing issue. HB1130 establishes an interim study committee to evaluate the Kernan-Shepard Report.

LWVIN had no success in Lobby Reform. We testified in support of SB165, Legislator to Lobbyist, a modest proposal to mandate a one year waiting period between a legislator leaving the State House prior to becoming a lobbyist. LWVIN as well as other supporters of the bill were berated by senate committee members. SB165 was pulled by the committee chair. Other lobby reform bills including redistricting did not receive committee hearings.



"Prevention First" bills were never given hearings in committee, another disappointment.

President Joanne Evers' Action Alerts, the weekly Legislative Action Network updates, including postings to LWVIN.org, keep LWVIN members informed of State House activity regarding LWVIN priorities. In addition, informative white papers and committee reports have enhanced the LAN this year.

The LWVIN collaboration with our coalition partners is an asset to the LAN. The alliances are taking shape, information is being shared, and the results are positive. The weekly legislative luncheons brought legislators and executive branch staff for conversations with members providing an opportunity to ask questions, offer opinions, and meet individuals involved in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your "eyes and ears" in the State House and to represent the League of Women Voters of Indiana through testimony and participation in other legislative activities.



### State Council 2008 Registration Form

Check one:

Delegate  Observer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Local League: \_\_\_\_\_

The 2008 Council registration fee is \$50 per person until April 11th. After that deadline, the registration cost will be \$55. Please make your checks payable to "LWVIN" and mail them, along with this registration form, to:

League of Women Voters of Indiana  
3921 North Meridian Street, Suite 225  
Indianapolis, IN 46208-4066

**ROOM RESERVATIONS:** Council 2008 will be held April 25 and 26 at the Pittenger Student Center at Ball State University, 2000 West University Avenue, Muncie, IN 47303. Room reservations can be made directly by calling 765-285-1555. When you call, please mention: "The League of Women Voters of Indiana State Council" and the confirmation number 288. The room rates range from \$55 to \$65 depending on the number of people and the size of bed you request. (Room choices at Student Center: 1 king size bed @ \$65.00; 1 queen size bed @ \$65.00; 2 twin beds @ \$55.00 for one person and \$62.00 for two people.)

Yes  No I plan to participate in the Friday evening reception.

**Important:** Make your room reservations ASAP. Mail in your 2008 Council Registration Form before April 11<sup>th</sup>



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## League of Women Voters of Indiana

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that 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 woman and men who are ages 18 year 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, 3921 North Meridian Street, Suite 225, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46208-4066. Checks should be made out to LWVIN. Donations to our Education Fund are tax exempt. Checks for the 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  
Gail Pebworth at [gpebworth@lwvin.org](mailto:gpebworth@lwvin.org)

Editors: Gail Pebworth and Carrie Sosbe

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