



***Upcoming  
League Events:***

*Coalition  
Luncheon*

March 18, 2010  
11 am – 1 pm

*Membership Event*

March 24, 2010  
11 am – 1 pm

*Local Government  
Study Event*

March 31, 2010  
7 pm-8:30 pm

*Lunch w/LWV*

March-No Date  
April 16, 2010  
May 21, 2010  
12 pm- 1 pm

*2010 LWV  
Indianapolis  
Annual Meeting*

April 24, 2010  
10 am – 1 pm

**LWV-Indianapolis**

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317-767-4187

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LWVIndy@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the web:

[www.lwwindy.org](http://www.lwwindy.org)

## ***Message from the President***

*How do you like our new look?*

Thanks to new League member Rhea Cain we have re-designed the *Bulletin* ... it is like a little 90<sup>th</sup> birthday present to ourselves. Who doesn't need a new style every once and awhile?

I hope you find the new design appealing and will let a board member, Rhea, or I know what you think. The *Bulletin* is one of the most effective communication tools we have at our disposal. Knowing what you think about its design and content is paramount to our ability to keep the *Bulletin* a useful and (hopefully!) anticipated publication.

You might see some additional changes throughout 2010 as we “tweak” the formatting and try to incorporate any suggestions you might have. Remember, this is *your* newsletter! Help us make it the best possible.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin Kelley".

*The League of Women Voters is a time-tested nonpartisan, nonprofit, volunteer political organization, dedicated to promoting active and informed participation in government—from the school district to the nation, and from voter registration to public service. Although LWV sometimes advocates for or against issues, it never supports or opposes particular candidates.*

# *Upcoming Events and Meeting Information*

## **Coalition Luncheon**

**Thursday, March 18, 2010 11 am – 1 pm**

North United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall

The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis along with Church Women United (CWU) and the Indianapolis branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will co-host our annual shared program and pitch-in luncheon this month. This year's lunch will focus on the environment with Jesse Kharbanda, Executive Director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, addressing the question "Can We Really Green Indiana in a Tough Economy?"

Registration will take place from 11 – 11:30 am with lunch from 11:30 am – 12 noon. Mr. Kharbanda will speak from 12 noon – 1 pm and will also answer questions during this hour.

### **Attendees are asked to bring the following:**

- One salad or bread item to share
- A serving utensil
- Table service – in the spirit of this year's theme, please bring your own plate, utensils, cup, and napkin.

Save the date and plan to attend this yearly favorite gathering! Additionally, visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to learn more about the League's natural resources positions, including global climate change.

## **Membership Event**

**Wednesday, March 24, 2010 11:30 am – 1 pm**

Birch Bayh Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse, 46 East Ohio Street

The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis will be coordinating a variety of special tours spotlighting the three levels of government at work here in Indiana. The tour focusing on the federal government will be a visit to the Birch Bayh Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 46 East Ohio Street on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:00 pm. All members and interested parties are invited to see this beautiful 1905 Beaux Arts building which was renovated in 2002 when much of the building was returned to its original condition. It features two grand staircases, stained glass domes, an impressive ceremonial courtroom and a depression era mural. We'll also meet with representatives from Jury Administration, the US Attorney's office, and Indiana Federal Community Defenders and learn about the federal grand jury process.

The federal judicial presence was established in Indiana in a territorial court in 1800. A single federal judge served the entire state until 1928. At that time it was divided into northern and southern districts, but the Southern District continued to be served by only one judge until 1954. The Southern District bench was an all-male institution until the appointment of Sarah Evans Barker in 1984. Currently there are five authorized (continued next page)

district judges, four magistrate judges and four bankruptcy judges. Other offices located in the courthouse include the District Court Clerk, Bankruptcy Court Clerk, United States Probation and the United States Marshal Service.\*

**Space is limited so please reserve your spot for the tour by contacting Sandra Mowell, Membership Chair at [membership@lwvindy.com](mailto:membership@lwvindy.com) or the LWV voicemail 317-767-4187 by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

*\*Information from the Visitors' Guide to the United States Court House Indianapolis, Indiana and the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana.*

### **Local Government Study Event: Township Governments**

**Wednesday, March 31, 2010 7 pm – 8:30 pm**

North United Methodist Church

In response to “Streamlining Local Government,” a report by the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform (a.k.a., Kernan-Shepard Report), the LWVIN has launched a statewide Local Government Study to look at three key areas of local government: Township Government, Public Safety, and Libraries. The LWV-Indianapolis recently completed the township phase of this study.

Please join us for a conversation with Wayne Township Trustee David K. Baird and state Representative Ed Delaney. Both have very different views on the role and importance of township government and their participation in this educational forum should help us all understand the issues much better. This is also an opportunity for Leaguers involved in the study to pose questions and share insights based on their study experiences.

### **Lunch with LWV**

Purpose: To inform us as citizens and voters

Place: Double Eagle Café—Scottish Rite Cathedral

650 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the Month

Time: **12 NOON – 1 PM**

Parking: Free in the lot west of the building, accessed from North Street

Plan: Come through the cafeteria line any time after 11:30, buy your meal, and join us in the Truman Room to eat, listen, and discuss.

Invite a friend, and join us. Speakers are to be announced at a later date.

### **Future Dates:**

**March: No Lunch with League, replaced by Coalition Lunch**

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 & May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

## ***2010 LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting***

Mark **Saturday, April 24** on your calendar for this year's Annual Meeting at the Rathskeller!

The annual meeting will be held on April 24 10 a.m.- 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan Street, with food provided by the Rathskeller.

Our speaker will be Cassie Stockamp, Executive Director of The Athenaeum Foundation, who will share some of the history of the Athenaeum, discuss the revitalization of the Mass Ave. area and the plans to restore the historic Athenaeum building and its role in the community.

Reservations, but no payments, are still required. You will order lunch off the menu prior to the business meeting. Please feel free to invite a prospective member or to inquire about ride sharing (see below).

### **Reservations Required by April 19:**

I would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seats for the 2010 LWV-Inpls. Annual Meeting

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Annual Meeting Schedule:**

**10 am – 10:15 am – Sign In**

**10:15 am – 11:15 am – Business Meeting**

**11:15 am – 11:45 am – Speaker, Cassie Stockcamp**

**11:45 am – 12:30 pm -- Lunch**

**Lunch:** Lunch will be ordered individually off the menu and you will receive your own check. The menu is available online at [www.rathskeller.com/lunch.htm](http://www.rathskeller.com/lunch.htm).

**Parking:** Free street parking is available on Saturdays. You may also park in the Antheneum parking lot just east of the building for a modest fee. Remember: Michigan Street is one way west in front of the Antheneum.

Please send reservations to :  
***LWV-Indianapolis***

Call 317-767-4187  
or  
Email:  
[communications@lwvindy.org](mailto:communications@lwvindy.org)

## *90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update*

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis

City-County Council Proclamation



The League of Women Voters was founded the same year women achieved the right to vote and this year celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In commemoration of this historic milestone, City-County Councilors Joanne Sanders (a League member!) and Angela Mansfield introduced a proclamation during the February City-County Council meeting making February 14 (the League's official anniversary date) "LWV Making Democracy Work Day."

Among other things, the proclamation recognizes the League as a hands-on organization whose efforts to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. The proclamation also recognizes the League as an organization that works to promote the values and processes of representative government.

As you all know, the League of Women Voters has had a proud impact on national, state and local issues for decades. We are deeply honored to be recognized for our tradition of nonpartisan political work and thank Councilor Sanders for her support.

You can take a look at and read the proclamation by going to [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org).

### ***Member Profile: New to LWV-Indy but not to LWV***

Welcome to Amy Olson, a new member who moved to Indianapolis about a year and a half ago! Amy works in the Research Administration office at IUPUI. She has her undergraduate degree from IU and her master's from Notre Dame in Non Profit Administration.

Amy joined League of Women Voters in 1995. While she lived in South Bend, she served for about ten years on the Board of Directors of LWV-South Bend Area. One of her projects was assisting the County Clerk's office to provide voter training when new voting machines debuted in St Joseph County in 2005. She was local president for two terms and completed one term on the LWV-Indiana Board. At one point, she became the local League web mistress (using League EasyWeb, the same web hosting service LWV-Indianapolis currently uses). Her League interests include many areas. Locally, she looks forward to assisting with our candidate forums in fall 2010. Those will form part of her introduction to local politics in Marion County.

Please stop to chat and get acquainted when you meet Amy at an upcoming meeting.

## ***Volunteer THANKS!***

Thanks to all those who have recently volunteered their time and talents. Your hard work is deeply appreciated.

*Carolyn Srivastava – Green Energy/Green Jobs Community Fair Info Table*  
*Karen Rutherford & Anne Nation – Joined Local Government Study*  
*Anna Weiser & Judy White – New Member Interviews*  
*Ada Shaum, Karen Kay Leonard, Erin Kelley, & Marietta Pesel – Budget Committee*  
*Deb Lawrence, Nancy Smith, Harriet Wilkins, & Vada Kim – Nominating Committee*  
*Rhea Cain – Bulletin re-design and formatting*

## ***Volunteer Opportunities***

There are always opportunities to help with the work of League! Contact the League if you would like to volunteer for any of these activities.

- Set-up & Clean-up help is needed with the Coalition Luncheon on March 18.
- Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority is holding a regional conference and “Healthy Living Fair” in Indianapolis on March 13 from 11a.m. to 4p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel downtown. The League has been invited to host an information booth on its activities and the 2010 Census.
- The League is planning a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Picnic at Garfield Park on May 22 and you’re help is needed! Join the party early and help make our celebration a success.
- Are you or someone you know interested in investments and money management? We’re looking for volunteers for an advisory group to help with investment ideas for the League finances.

## ***LWVINDY.ORG – New Website, New Ideas?***

The LWV of Indianapolis launched a new Web site late last year at [www.lwvindy.org](http://www.lwvindy.org). The template for the new site was purchased from the League of Women Voters of California and is called League Easy Web (LEW). The LEW template is pretty straightforward and does not contain a lot of bells and whistles, but it does allow us to more easily and frequently post updates and useful information.

For example, a “Headlines” section was recently added to the homepage. This is where the LWV quickly uploaded information about the Indiana Supreme Court’s decision to hear oral arguments on the Voter ID law and where a copy of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary proclamation issued by the City County Council has been posted. (continues on the next page)

But we don't want to stop there! So, all you internet savvy members out there - your local League is looking for a way to make our Web site even more informative and useful. We are exploring

ideas for a members forum that would allow YOU to communicate with one another on specific issues or topics that of particular interest. Some of the ideas being discussed are: list serves (essentially an e-mail group discussion), blogs (more formally web log, they contain commentary or news on particular subjects), event and update postings (an area for you to tell other members about public meetings or for the Observer Corps to post notices) and we are certainly open to any other ideas. If you have any interest in pursuing this area or specific knowledge that would help us tailor something for our Web site contact the League.

## ***\$90 for 90 Campaign***

In honor of the Indianapolis League of Women Voters' 90th anniversary in 2010, please consider a gift of \$90 (or more) this year. You can make one \$90 gift, or you can make a pledge and pay it off during the year--it's just \$7.50/month!

Also, please consider marking our 90th anniversary by leaving a legacy of your own with a bequest to the Indianapolis League of Women Voters. Here's some sample language you can use to make an unrestricted gift to the League:

*I give, devise, and bequeath to the Indianapolis League of Women Voters, a not-for-profit organization located in Indianapolis, Indiana, \$\_\_\_\_\_.00 (specific amount) OR \_\_\_\_\_ percent (%) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate as an unrestricted gift to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Indianapolis League of Women Voters for the general purposes of the Indianapolis League of Women Voters, located in Indianapolis, Indiana.*

If you have already included the League in your estate plans, THANK YOU! We would like to recognize your generosity if you would like to inform us of your plans.



Do you have a submission for the *Bulletin*? Send them to the editor,  
Carol Fowler, at [Communications@lwindy.org](mailto:Communications@lwindy.org).

# *A Little League History:*

*90 Years for the Indianapolis League, Too*

Most of us know that the National League of Women Voters was 90 years old in February (see the article in this Bulletin on the City's February 1 Proclamation). But do we realize that the Indianapolis League has its own 90th birthday in April?

The League, of course, was an outgrowth of the women's suffrage movement. Before April 16, 1920, the movement in Indianapolis was led by the Indianapolis Branch of the Women's Franchise Association. In 1919 this redoubtable organization had finally achieved its goal, i.e., passage of the Constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote. The national Women's Franchise Association held its last convention in Chicago in February 1920. There it disbanded. Its delegates recognized, however, that enormous challenges remained and they immediately formed the National League of Women Voters. Promptly the Indiana state suffrage organization and the Indianapolis branch followed the example of National. Thus was born, on April 16, 1921, the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis.

Initially membership in the Indianapolis League was carried over from membership in the defunct branch of the Women's Franchise Association. Thus, in 1920 the new Indianapolis League had 590 members and the budget was \$1,830. That amount was worth much more in 1920 than it is now. As the decade of the '20's went on, membership did not hold up to the original number. In 1922 it fell to 470 but then spiked to 1,000 in 1923, then down to 167 in 1925. It was up and down in the next twenty years. But it stabilized in the 1940's. From then until 1970 the number of members was generally in the 400's. Currently our membership is around 100.

(Source: A HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANAPOLIS 1920 - 1970 by Barbara E. Zimmer, Master's thesis, Butler University 1970.)



All photos courtesy of [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**LWV Indianapolis Membership Form—Have you Renewed?**

**Joining the League of Women Voters**

Yes, I would like to become a member of the League of Women Voters for an annual fee of \$50.00.

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

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My annual dues of \$50.00 are enclosed.

I am a new member. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ I am a renewing member. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(All members receive the *Bulletin* several times a year as well as other League literature and information.)

Scholarships/reduced dues are available for student memberships please contact the League.

Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help the League of Women Voters make a positive impact on voting, citizenship and democracy. Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help provide student member scholarships.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Below is the name and address/phone number of a prospective League member.

\_\_\_\_\_

I expect to be an active member \_\_\_\_\_, an occasional participant \_\_\_\_\_ or a supporter \_\_\_\_\_.

I would like to be contacted to assist with (*circle all preferences*):

Education

Health & Welfare

Natural Resources

Public Transit

Voter Service

Women's Issues

Local Government Reform

Other/Special

From:

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis

c/o North United Methodist Church

3808 N. Meridian Street

Indianapolis, IN 46208-4909

*Forwarding and Address Correction*

*Requested*

TO: