



Upcoming LWV Events

Lunch with LWV

November 19th, 2010
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Scottish Rite Cathedral

Dinner & Discussion: Post Election Wrap Up

November 16th, 2010
6 pm – 8 pm
Rathskellar
401 E. Michigan St

LWV Indianapolis Monthly Board Meeting

First Wednesday of
Every Month, 7 pm.
North United
Methodist Church
3808 N. Meridian Street

LWV-Indianapolis

Voicemail:

317-767-4187

E-mail:

LWVIndy@sbcglobal.net

Visit us on the web:

www.lwvindy.org

Message from the President

I cannot thank everyone enough for all their hard work over the past several weeks. This past autumn you helped the League register voters, celebrate the anniversary of the 19th amendment, host five candidate forums, made improvements to our Web site, helped edit or reprint publications, and otherwise served as outstanding ambassadors for the LWV!

We are days away from Election Day and if you have an interest in serving as a poll watcher, please contact me. The LWV of Indianapolis has secured a number of poll watcher credentials for League members to use. We also have an observation form we would like all poll watchers to complete. Alternatively, if you are working the polls on Election Day as an Inspector, Judge, or Clerk, look for a pale yellow survey in the Inspector's binder. This double-sided survey created by the LWVIN is being used statewide to help assess how voting functions in Indiana.

I know all of us cannot participate in the same ways – and that is okay! By being an informed League member who attends events, reads updates in the *Bulletin* and monthly e-newsletter, donates when s/he can, and shares LWV resources with friends and family, you are doing good work for the League!

Lastly, I would like to extend a personal THANK YOU to Sandra Mowell. Sandra's husband recently received a promotion and they will be moving to Ohio in a few weeks. Sandra has served as the LWV's Membership Chair for over a year and has done wonderful work coordinating tours, organizing our anniversary picnic, and managing the membership database and renewal process. Sandra has been a thoughtful and energetic addition to our League and she will be sorely missed.

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 League Events

Dinner and Discussion: Post-Election Wrap Up

Rathskeller Restaurant, November 16th, 6 to 8pm

We are planning a fun, informal gathering on Tuesday, November 16 beginning at 6 pm at the Rathskeller Restaurant (401 E. Michigan St.) to discuss and analyze the results of the 2010 mid-term elections. **Jim Shella** from WISH-TV has agreed to be our featured speaker for the evening. We plan to start with an optional dinner/social hour (on your own) from 6 to 7pm followed by a discussion of the election results and the impact on the next state and federal legislative sessions. Please invite friends to attend this special meeting.

Please contact me with any questions communications@lwindy.org.

– *Carol Fowler*

Lunch with League

Friday, November 19th

12noon – 1p.m. (speaker); 1 – 2p.m. (info sharing)

Scottish Rite Cathedral, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian St.

Participate in this monthly lunchtime series so that you will be the most informed you can be about local and city politics. Our November speaker is Karen Davis from the Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services who will share information about protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities.

Remember – No Lunch with League is scheduled in December! Mark your calendar for January 21st.

Monthly LWV-Indianapolis Board Meetings

First Wednesday of every month at 7p.m.

North United Methodist Church

3808 N. Meridian Street

All League members are welcome to attend board meetings. Learn more about **your** League and how you can get more involved.

LWV-Indianapolis Updates

The Indianapolis Council of Women

The LWV of Indianapolis is a member of the Indianapolis Council of Women. The ICW meets the first Tuesday of the month from September through May (excluding January) from 10a.m. to approximately 2p.m. The ICW provides a morning and afternoon program along with a \$20 luncheon. Meetings are typically held at the Highland Golf and Country Club on W. 52nd Street. LWV members are welcome to attend. Call 244-8357 by the Thursday prior to the Tuesday meeting to make your reservation. Upcoming speakers include:

- November – Dr. Bill Neher, Interim Dean of College of Communications, Butler University and Sue Staton, “History and Lore of Crown Hill Cemetery.”
- December – Ronie Lewis, Indiana State Museum Speakers Bureau, “America’s Christmas Legends: Then and Now” and Judi Meister, Holiday Music.

– *Marietta Pesel*

The Julian Center’s Thrifty Threads & You

When De’Von Kelly, Family Violence Outreach Advocate for the Julian Center, spoke to us at the September Lunch with League, she informed us about Thrifty Threads, a resale store whose proceeds are used to support the Julian Center and its clients. Any Leaguers who want to support this store should bring donations of clothing, house wares, kitchen items and other items with them to the Lunch with League. We have a volunteer who will transport your items to Thrifty Threads. If you are unsure what items would be appropriate, you can visit the Julian Center website (www.juliancenter.org/thrifty_threads.html) for more information.

– *Gin Harrison*

Smackdown the Vote!

On Saturday, September 20th, three League volunteers headed to the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) Smackdown event at Conseco Fieldhouse to register voters and raise awareness about our organization. While we did not collect any voter registration forms, one enthusiastic mother of a newly-turned eighteen-year-old took a form home for her son. She thanked us for being at the event and commented that she hadn't expected to be able to take care of that at the WWE event. Many in the crowd paused to look at our League banner hanging on the wall but the excitement of finding their seat for the event in a sea of wrestling enthusiasts prevented them from stopping. In the end, getting the League's name out to an audience we don't normally serve made it worthwhile.

– *Becca Loofbourrow*

New on the Web

Becoming familiar with the LWV of Indianapolis Web site and referring friends and family to www.lwvindy.org is a crucial activity all League members with Internet access should be doing. Our Web site is an important voter education and service tool that is used by a number of people. In fact, an individual living overseas recently used our Web site to ask the LWV for help when they encountered problems filing for an absentee ballot using the federal government's Web site. If people overseas are relying on our site for information, shouldn't you and your friends?

Our Web site is filled with useful links to confirm voter registration status, polling sites, ballot information, and even where to go to find judicial retention information. Use the site to download a copy of *Voting in Marion County* or a white paper on property tax caps to share with others in the community. (And always remember you can request hardcopies of publications such as *Voting in Marion County* to distribute as well!)

Volunteer THANKS!

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

- *Voter Service Coordination:*
Jeanne Luke
- *Depart of Finance & Accounting Services Presentation:*
Deb Lawrence and Tracy Heaton deMartinez
- *90th Anniversary Event at Propylaeum:*
Madelyn Sundquist and Shirley Christian
- *Hob Nob Info Table:*
Phyllis Nieske, Sandra Mowell, and Laura Arnold
- *World Wrestling Entertainment Voter Registration:*
Nancy Smith, Becca Loofbourrow, and Jeanne Luke
- *Junior League Voter Registration:*
Erin Kelley and Becca Loofbourrow. (Thanks to Amy Olson for inviting us to speak!)
- *Candidate Forum Volunteers:*
Jeanne Luke, Deb Lawrence, Anne Nation, Kendra Clauser, Ada Shaum, Vada Kim, Marietta Pesel, Robin Olds, Erin Kelley, Gin Harrison, and Carol Fowler. (And special thanks to LWV member Laura Arnold for attending ALL five candidate forums!)
- *Indiana Debate Commission Volunteers:*
Deb Lawrence, Karen Kay Leonard, Tracy Heaton deMartinez, and Erin Kelley
- *International Center of Indianapolis/Grassroots Organizing Presentation:*
Tracy Heaton deMartinez
- *Lunch with League Coordinators:*
Phyllis Nieske and Gin Harrison
- *Candidate Forum Coordinator Extraordinaire:*
Lenora Maze
- *Web Updates:*
Karen Rutherford

Volunteer News

Volunteer Opportunities

Poll Watchers Needed!

Please contact Erin Kelley at president@lwvindy.org to obtain credentials to monitor any polling site in Marion County. You will also receive an observation form that should be returned by November 5.

2011 Directory of Government Officials

The *Directory of Government Officials*, or DGO, is one of the many valuable publications the LWV publishes after each election. This is a great volunteer opportunity that anyone with a phone can assist with! Contact Erin Kelley (contact info above) or Karen Kay Leonard to learn more.

Membership Committee

Do you have an interest in recruiting new members, planning member outings, or otherwise assisting the League maintain a strong membership base? Then please contact Erin Kelley or any other board member to learn more about the LWV's Membership Committee.

We the People Judges

We the People is a student competition where young people learn about the values and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The competition takes the form of a simulated congressional hearing where students present testimony and answer questions about historical, political, and constitutional issues before a panel of three judges acting as a congressional committee. To learn more about this amazing program and how you can spend a day educating and encouraging youth, please contact Karon Wallace at

(317) 590-6457 or kwallace@msdwt.k12.in.us. (Please let Erin Kelley know if you volunteer so that you can be recognized by the LWV!)

Domestic Violence Court Watchers

During September's Lunch with League we heard from De'Von Kelly, Family Violence Outreach Advocate for the Julian Center. De'Von informed us of a program she runs where volunteers spend four hours a month in one of the domestic violence court rooms observing how the system is treating victims. Training is required to participate in this program, but it falls nicely in-line with other observation duties Leaguers sometimes do. If you would like more information about this program, please contact De'Von at (317) 281-2549 or Devon.Kelly@indy.gov. (Please let Erin Kelley know if you volunteer – we'd love to include reports in the *Bulletin* and elsewhere.)

LWVIN Updates

The League of Women Voters of Indiana has been quite active recently! Here's what you need to know about your state League:

Regional Workshops - Bloomington

I attended another great fall workshop put on by the LWV-Indiana. I attended the session held in Bloomington in August and came away feeling much more knowledgeable about “rain gardens” and about the League.

Heidi Russell Wagner, Monroe County Planner/GIS specialist, had an interesting presentation on the environmental history of Monroe County and then moved on to how to more appropriately develop or redevelop land with storm water and drainage in mind. Several of the improvements had been implemented in the industrial park where our meeting was held so we gained a whole new appreciation of parking lots that day!

Gail Pebworth presented on the “ABCs for a Streamlined League”. This is a National League program to provide a more flexible, streamlined, and sustainable model for operating some Leagues. It is a toolkit to help Leagues determine what organizational structure would work best for them and provides outlines and checklists to aid in planning League actions and activities. This document can be found in the members section of the National website, www.LWV.org.

– Carol Fowler

Property Tax Cap Amendment – Pros & Cons

Do you know how you are going to answer the ballot question below this November? Visit www.lwvindy.org or www.lwvin.org to read an unbiased assessment prepared by the LWVIN of the property tax caps amendment.

SHALL PROPERTY TAXES BE LIMITED FOR ALL CLASSES OF PROPERTY by amending the Constitution of the State of Indiana to do the following:

(1) Limit a taxpayer's annual property tax bill to the following percentages of gross assessed value:

- (A) 1% for an owner-occupied primary residence (homestead);
- (B) 2% for residential property, other than an owner-occupied primary residence, including apartments;
- (C) 2% for agricultural land;
- (D) 3% for other real property; and
- (E) 3% for personal property.

The above percentages exclude any property taxes imposed after being approved by the voters in a referendum.

(2) Specify that the General Assembly may grant a property tax exemption in the form of a deduction or credit and exempt a mobile home used as a primary residence to the same extent as real property?



\$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.

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.

Membership News

Member Profiles

Even an abbreviated history of **Nancy Smith's** engagement with League of Women Voters necessitates considerable detail, for she will become a 50-year (Life) member before our centennial year, and she has served as president of both the local and state Leagues. Nancy first was drawn into the League because a number of her friends in Burlington, Vermont, were members. A very active group, the League of Women Voters of the Champlain Valley provided alternate activities when Nancy was a mother of young children. So, it was logical that when the family moved to Indy, Nancy joined League of Women Voters of Indianapolis.

After serving in various local LWV offices, she became president of the Indianapolis League for the 1975-1977 term, a period of intense activity despite the fact that women had begun returning in large numbers to work outside the home. Indianapolis' local study of election laws eventually triggered a wider state study that provided the foundation for the current LWVIN position on election practices. In those days, the Indianapolis Star / News cooperated with our League to publish a "Voter's Guide" prior to every election. Candidates for each elective office each would be asked a set of questions, and the guide printed their answers up to a prescribed word-length. Then, on Election Day, LWV created a local phone bank to provide the kind of information (about polling places and election hours, for example) that today are readily found on the Web. During Bill Hudnut's mayoral administration, she was appointed to the city's "progress" committee (GIPC). According to Nancy, important benefits of those years include many League acquaintances, deep organizational training, and contact with a wide spectrum of local officials.

Eventually Nancy became a member of the state board and served LWV-Indiana in various offices, including president 1983-1985. Televised gubernatorial debates in the 1980s were organized and sponsored by the League. (No Indiana Debate Commission existed before 2000!) Following her state board terms, Nancy became Indiana's LWV lobbyist. Later, she widened her scope and also lobbied for other worthwhile causes. Now retired, Nancy retains her commitment to League of Women Voters, held close both by her friends and associations and also by her fundamental belief in League principles. In Indianapolis, we count ourselves fortunate to have such a treasure within our ranks!

– *Karen Kay Leonard*

Member Profiles

Janet Rash may be a new member to LWV of Indianapolis but she is no stranger to the League! She was born in Randolph County and grew up in Union City, IN. She has lived in several states including Virginia and California but returned to Indiana in 1986 and settled in Indianapolis near her husband's family. She served as Administrative Assistant to the Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Martin University and retired in 2006. Janet served on the board of the Fort Wayne LWV and chaired a study committee as well as serving in other capacities in the 1960s. Her interest in becoming involved once again with LWV was renewed as she followed the LWVIN and LWV of Indianapolis lawsuit against the Indiana Voter ID law. Janet is also excited to have the opportunity to study issues in a non-partisan manner. She has one son and one granddaughter who live in Greenwood. Janet is an avid reader and enjoys spending time at her local library branch.

– *Sandra Mowell*

Memorials

Barbara Evans Zimmer died August 7th, 2010, in Indianapolis, after an extended illness. She is survived by her husband, Karl, and three adult children. We extend our sincere condolences to Barbara's family and numerous friends.

Barbara, Karl, and their children moved to Indianapolis from Larchmont, NY, in 1964. Since Barbara had been a League member, she quickly joined LWV here. She then earned a master's degree from Butler University in 1970, writing her thesis on the history of LWV-Indianapolis. About that same time, Barbara was the only female on the mayor's task force for UNIGOV. Having worked actively in civic affairs throughout the 1960s, Barbara became a member of the state Board of Directors and went on to serve as LWVIN president for the 1973-1975 term. In that capacity, she claimed she knew every road in the state because of driving from League to League. Once her state presidency was finished, Barbara became intensely active at the Indiana

Historical Society, where she helped establish and lead the Women's History Archives. Today, that section houses the LWV archives of both Indianapolis and Indiana. Teaching writing classes at IUPUI for more than a decade, Barbara also authored texts and curriculum. After retirement, Barbara applied her educational energy to helping establish the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, an east-side Indianapolis charter school. Like the best of Leaguers, Barbara never tired of pressing for openness of government, equality of opportunity, and access for all. To her various volunteer (and paying) jobs, she applied a powerful intellect and intense determination to improve the world for us all. We treasure our memories of her work and will strive to live up to her good example.

The Zimmer family has indicated that memorial gifts to LWV would please them. In Barbara's honor, the LWVIN Education Fund has established the Barbara E. Zimmer Fund, an opportunity for designated tax-deductible gifts which will facilitate writing an account of the League's history from 1950 forward. (Payee = LWVIN Education Fund; Memo = Barbara E. Zimmer Fund. Send to LWVIN, 445 N Pennsylvania St, #910, Indianapolis 46204.) At the local level, memorial gifts to LWV-Indianapolis will be directed to the endowment fund which is invested on LWV's behalf, from which only the interest is used. (Payee = LWV-Indianapolis; Memo = Zimmer, endowment. Send to LWV-Indianapolis, 3808 N Meridian St, Indianapolis 46208.)

Pat Carey, co-president of the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis from 1983 to 1987 and president of the League of Women Voters of Indiana from 1988 to 1991, died on September 29, two and a half weeks after being diagnosed with brain cancer.

Pat's work with the League began in the mid-1960s when she and some friends founded a new League in Medina, OH. She always claimed that the League had helped her retain her sanity while her children were small. Pat moved her membership to Doylestown, PA, in 1968 and to Indianapolis in 1974 as she and the family followed her husband's career moves.

Pat believed strongly that citizens in a democracy have an obligation to participate in the governance of their society—as voters, by serving in public office, by monitoring the work of public officials. Voting—informed, intelligent voting—was for her the primary means for democratic involvement. Her work in voter service for the League was her way of engaging citizens with government.

She organized voter registration efforts and registered voters. She monitored election processes and helped the League give advice on election equipment. She developed brochures and forums to inform citizens in Indianapolis and throughout the state on governmental issues. In the 1980s and 1990s, she organized numerous candidate debates for the local and state Leagues. Her New York City style made her a formidable negotiator on the League's behalf, ensuring that candidate events met the standards of fairness and non-partisanship.