



Bulletin

" . . . we are going to be a semi-political body. In that body we have got to be non-partisan and all-partisan."
~Carrie Chapman Catt, 1920

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis
August 2007
Volume 89, Number 1

Notes from LWV-US:

Join the Grassroots Lobby Corps

The LWVUS website offers tools, tips and information to advocate for the League's priority issues. To receive email action alerts on urgent issues, join the grassroots lobby corps. Go to LWV.ORG and click on the "For Members" link.

Check out the election information at Vote411.org

This website, sponsored by the LWVUS Ed Fund, provides valuable election information on a state by state basis. Check it out!

Immigration Study Materials

Study materials and background papers are available at the LWVUS.ORG website. Click on "Projects" then drop down to "Immigration Study".

Newsletter Submissions may be sent to the editor, Carol Fowler, at LWVIndy@att.net

LWV-Indianapolis:
Voicemail: 317-767-4187
Email: LWVIndy@att.net
www.indygov.org/lwv

Meeting and Event Information

Constitution Day Public Event

Monday 17 September Constitution Day: Justice in Indiana
6:30 – 8:30 PM Indiana History Center
See page 2 for details.

HobNob Community Event

Friday 20 September An evening of candidate contact (with refreshments)
5:00 – 8:00 PM Tickets \$10, sponsored in collaboration with the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, taking place along the canal near the Indiana State Museum. Please visit the website: indychamber.com/hobnob.asp (Contact Phyllis Neiske if interested as some complimentary tickets may be available.)

LWV-Indy Evening Coffee Klatch

Monday 24 September Marian College Library Coffee Shop
7:00 PM 3200 Cold Spring Road See page 3 for details.

Candidate Forums

Thursday 4 October Indiana History Center
Other dates and See page 2 and watch for additional details.
locations to be announced

LWV-Indiana Every Member Workshop

Saturday 20 October South Bend, Indiana
Day trip to share ideas about how LWV and its members can operate more effectively in their respective communities.

Future Lunches with LWV

Friday 17 Aug. Mary Lou Rothe, IMCPL Board & LWV Member
Friday 21 Sept. Other guests to be announced
Friday 19 Oct.

Future LWV-Indianapolis Board Meetings

Wednesday 5 Sept. 7 P.M. North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian
Thursday 4 Oct. Prior to Candidate Forum, Indiana History Center

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.

Constitution Day: Justice in Indiana

Monday, 17 September 2007, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

**Public Event Sponsored by:
LWV-Indianapolis and
Indiana Historical Society**

Indiana History Center, 450 W. Ohio St. Stardust Terrace Café

Constitution Day Event

By studying the past to understand how the federal court system developed in Indiana, the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis and the Indiana Historical Society hope to inspire Hoosiers to become more interested and active in understanding the current role of the courts. The IHS publication, *Federal Justice in Indiana: The History of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana* will be used as the vehicle in which the history and contemporary relevance of the federal courts is explored. Join panelists Doria Lynch, Court Historian of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, author and attorney Donald Kite, Sr., and a representative from the U.S. District Court as they share insights into the federal courts. FREE. 6:30 p.m. Stardust Terrace Café. Walk-ins welcome, but reservations requested by September 10; (317) 232-1882.

This event is supported (in part) by a grant from the Program on Constitutional and Legal Policy of the Open Society Institute.

Candidate Forums:

*City-County Councillors, Mayor –
will be elected on 6 November 2007*

In September and October 2007, LWV-Indianapolis will offer 4 to 6 Tuesday or Thursday evening forums, featuring candidates from various geographical areas of the city, at-large candidates, or mayoral candidates. All legitimate candidates for the offices are invited to participate. Look for announcements of these forums at various venues around town, and come see in person the officials from whom you have opportunity to elect your representatives. Then you and your neighbors can watch them again on Public Access Cable Channel 16 and further debate your views!

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors continues to meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 P.M. Our meeting location is the NUMC downstairs, in case you should want or need to visit.

LWV-Indianapolis Fall Activities Preview

LWV Public and General Meetings - All League of Women Voters public meetings welcome anyone who wants to participate, and visitors are invited to all League general meetings, too.

Recurring event (ongoing general meetings) – Lunch with LWV – 3rd Fridays at noon (except December & March) at Scottish Rite

Held in the Truman Room of the Double Eagle Café, inside Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, this one-hour presentation and discussion helps keep Leaguers up-to-date on a variety of topics. Parking is free in the lot west of the building, accessed off North St. Just buy lunch in the cafeteria line any time after 11:30, and carry your lunch tray to the Truman room for learning and conversation. (In order for workers to return to their jobs, the meeting dismisses promptly at 1:00.)

Recurring event (new general meeting) - LWV Conversation and a Cuppa – evenings, about once a month, at the Marian College Library Coffee Shop

Join us for this new opportunity for evening conversation with members and friends, beginning in September. Come discuss League and personal political interests for 60-90 minutes, while enjoying the ambience of the coffee shop inside Marian College's new library, 3200 Cold Spring Rd, Indianapolis. There is ample free parking in the adjacent lot. (For map and directions, please see www.marian.edu.)

Our first “**Coffee Klatch**” will be on September 24th beginning at about 7:00 PM. We'll plan to start off with a discussion of the immigration issues related to the current national study but it will be an open forum for issues of the day.

Please contact Carol Fowler (LWVIndy@att.net) if you have any questions. As this is a new event, if you are interested but cannot attend, please let Carol know and feel free to make any alternate time/place suggestions.

Lunch With LWV

Purpose:

to inform us as citizens and voters

Place:

Double Eagle Café
inside Scottish Rite Cathedral
650 N Meridian St, Indianapolis

Date:

3rd Fridays

Time:

12 NOON – 1 P.M.

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.

Friday, 17 August Lunch with LWV

Mary Lou Rothe – Progress on IMCPL's new central facility: “You'll Love the Ending”



Observation Project

At the annual meeting this year, the Indianapolis League decided not to have a local study to try to reach a new consensus or to review one of our previous agreements. Instead, we're going to learn about local government by attending meetings of local governmental councils, committees, boards, and other agencies.

The committee that is coordinating this effort has met and developed a plan. Between now and November 1, we'd like to have as many League members as possible attend at least one meeting of one governmental group and to report their observations to the coordinating committee. Pick the group you're interested in. In Marion County you have lots of choices: the City-County Council, 11 City-County Council committees and a special committee on elections, four town councils (perhaps they have committees, as well), 9 township advisory boards, 9 school boards, the Public Library Board, Health and Hospital Corporation, Airport Authority, Capital Improvements Board, Building Authority, Public Transportation Corporation. Attend one of their meetings. Watch and listen to the proceedings. Send a report to the coordinating committee.

If you're interested in township government, August and September are good times to attend meetings. That's when the advisory boards are developing their budgets; some of the boards meet only then and again in January.

If you'd like help getting information on meeting times or if you'd like to find another League member to go with you, contact Karen Kay or Harriet, and we'll try to help. We'll also send you (by e-mail or postal mail) an observation form that we'd like you to return to the committee and suggestions about what to do and not to do when you attend these meetings.

Observers Coordinating Committee:
Ginny Harrison, Karen Kay Leonard, Sandra Mowell, Michelle Rollings, Carolyn Srivastava, Harriet Wilkins

State Program Position Review Committees

At May's LWV-IN Convention in Brown County, delegates voted to make a thorough review of all existing positions in our state program for the coming biennium. Vice President Albrecht Holschuh of the Bloomington / Monroe County League will chair the general effort, and there also will be a chairperson for each individual position. Each local League is asked to furnish a tenth of its membership (for us, that's about 11 members) to serve on state e-mail committees. Each committee will communicate electronically, discussing and examining positions. Work on different positions undoubtedly will require different lengths of time, but when the committee submits its recommendations to the LWV-IN Board, its task is finished. Some groups may decide their position needs restudy; others may recommend an update; some may call for rewording; some for no change at all. If you can, please say *yes* to an invitation to serve on one of these LWV-IN position review groups – you can work from home!

A Plea – Please, Please Work the Election if You Can

Marion County Election Board 327-5100

As nearly everyone knows, there was a critical shortage of trained Marion County election workers on duty during last May's primary. As *not* everyone may know, the County Clerk, Beth White, is *not* requiring that only members of her political party (Democrat) sign up as inspectors. A person can register to work as an inspector at the General Election on Tuesday 6 November 2007 without declaring a party, either by calling the Election Board number above and getting on the regular list, or by attending training and then being "on call" the morning of the actual election as an emergency inspector.

The work of Election Day is long and detailed, but it is a valuable service to citizens. Because of the efforts inspectors, judges, and clerks, Marion County citizens will have opportunity to express their view at the polls. If you are able to participate in this citizen brigade, please do.

Meet our New President

Tracy Heaton de Martinez was elected as LWV-Indianapolis President at our Annual Meeting in May. Here is a brief introduction for those of you who have not yet met her.

My involvement with League began in rural Illinois. I desperately needed to find a group of sensible, questioning women. I found the League, and the wonderful women who comprised it in Kankakee, Illinois. When I returned to my hometown of Indianapolis, I wanted to find the same group of women and naturally sought out the League.

I always learn something from the League - and it's never what I think I'm going to learn! An innocent study of township government has opened my eyes to the complex nature of Indiana government. And League is one of the few places where I can funnel my outrage into action.

I'm married to Felipe Martinez, a Presbyterian minister serving Whitewater Valley Presbytery. Together we have two girls, both grown and out of the house. We've feathered our nest with a rescued golden retriever and many visits from our two small grandsons.

I am the director of the Near Eastside Community Organization (NESCO) and we live on the near eastside in the Little Flower neighborhood.

I am humbled to serve the League as president this year and I'm really excited about working with the talented, fun and smart women on our board of directors. Consider your current level of involvement - it will be a great year!

Citizens for a Sustainable Indianapolis

Since the LWV-Indianapolis Board decided in June to become a Partner Group this newly-formed coalition, Sarah Emerson and Karen Kay Leonard have been working on behalf of LWV with Ed Cohen of Citizens for a Sustainable Indianapolis, preparing to press local candidates to make their environmental positions known before the fall election. A letter to them asks how each values environmental stewardship and sustainability. Although candidate answers to the survey questions will be posted and published, of course no candidate will be endorsed or opposed by CSI.

Each Partner Group agrees to:

1. Provide CSI with the number of its total membership and agree to allow the group's name to be listed as a Partner Group in print publicity and on the web site.
2. Appoint (if desired) one member who provides input on the survey questions. (This opportunity ends mid-July.)
3. Help distribute surveys to candidates, electronically or via postal mail.
4. Ask group members to follow up with their own candidates, requesting that candidates complete and submit the survey before the 8/31/07 deadline.
5. Make the candidates' answers available to its membership.

This effort to have Indianapolis City-County Council candidates and mayoral candidates answer questions about their views on climate change and environmental sustainability fits firmly into the League's local, state, and national positions. We hope *you* will help press your candidates (mayor, CCC district, CCC At-large) to answer the survey!

LWV-US Immigration Study – ongoing through 2008

At the outset, the LWV-US Immigration Study Committee defines the scope of the study, educates Leagues and League members about the study process, provides background information on the issue, suggests resources, and publicizes the study to Leagues and the public. Later in the study, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee will write consensus questions for local Leagues and use their responses to create an immigration position statement. The LWVUS Board is responsible for final approval of the scope, consensus questions and position.

Our local League is forming a resource committee to guide our local process and has scheduled a general meeting on the Study for Thursday, November 8th. If you would be interested in participating on the resource committee, please contact Tracy Heaton de Martinez (375-1499 or RectorWife@aol.com).

Study Timeline:

September 2006 to January 2008 – Local Leagues help educate members and communities about immigration issues.

September 1, 2007 – The LWVUS distributes a Leader's Guide that includes consensus questions.

September 2007 to January 2008 – Local Leagues take consensus.

February 1, 2008 – Deadline for the LWVUS to receive consensus response forms.

February 1, 2008 to March 20, 2008 – Using consensus responses, the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee formulates the position.

Late March/early April 2008 – The LWVUS Board adopts the position.

The reasons, historical and current, for immigration into the US, as well as the procedures by which it happens, are the focus of this study, which will end with the taking of a national LWV consensus in the first part of 2008. LWV-Indianapolis already has heard from Consul Lorena Alvarado, Diplomat for the Mexican Consulate (of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio), and Angela Iza, an immigration attorney with the local law firm of Lewis & Kappes, learning both about

basic immigration rules and also about support provided by the consulate. In addition, members who attended LWV-IN Convention learned from Professor Katherine Fennelly of LWV-Minnesota, a member of the LWV-US Immigration Study Committee, who presented information on immigration trends and practices. Although it may too complex a topic to understand thoroughly, immigration reform is both imminent and important to the US, and Leaguers need to increase their knowledge as Congress once again considers changes to immigration laws. If a national LWV consensus is reached, the expressed viewpoint will then become a part of LWV position to use for advocacy efforts.

July Preview of LWV-US Consensus Questions

By the end of February 2008, LWV-US will ask Leagues across the nation to respond to consensus questions on immigration. With what kinds of questions will the national study concern itself? Although the national committee has not yet fixed the exact questions, here are some guidelines for topically honing your own thinking:

1. When it comes to admitting would-be immigrants to the U.S., what qualities and situations should be given highest priority?
 - A. Ethnic & cultural diversity
 - B. Economic, business, and service employment needs
 - C. Environmental impact / sustainability
 - D. Family reunification with spouses & minor children
 - E. History of criminal activity
 - F. Humanitarian crises / political persecution in home countries
 - G. Personal characteristics (e.g., health & age)
 - H. Rights of all workers to safe working conditions & a living wage
 - I. Rights of families to remain together
 - J. Rights of individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law (e.g., fair hearing, counsel, appeal, humane treatment)
 - K. Education & training

Prioritize your first three choices from #1.

(Continued to next page)

(Continued)

2. How should current unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. be treated?
- Deport them.
 - Deport some. Allow others to earn legal adjustments of status based on their length of U.S. residence.
 - Deport some. Allow others to earn legal adjustments of status based on the needs of U.S. employers.
 - Allow all to earn legal adjustments of status through qualifications such as paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, etc.
 - If deported, assess fines before possible re-entry
 - Assess fines before allowing persons to earn legal adjustments of status.
- (Rate each of the following as “high or lower priority” and “consensus or no consensus.”)
3. Federal immigration laws **SHOULD PROVIDE** an efficient, expeditious system for which immigrants?
- Immediate family members joining a family member already admitted to legal permanent U.S. residence.
 - Those entering U.S. to meet its labor needs
 - Those entering the U.S. as a student
 - Those entering the U.S. to escape persecution in home country
4. **SHOULD** federal immigration law include, in order to deal most effectively with unauthorized immigrants?
- Social Security or other national identity card with secure identifiers for **all persons residing in the U.S.**
5. How should federal immigration law be enforced
- Physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders
 - Increased personnel at land, air, and sea entry points
 - Effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the U.S.
 - Verification documents (e.g. Green Cards, Work Permits with secure identifiers)
 - Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status
 - Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies
 - Program to allow immigrant workers to enter and leave the U.S. in order to meet seasonal & sporadic labor needs
 - Significant fines for employers who do not take adequate steps to verify employees’ work authorization
- Mark for “consensus” or “No consensus.”
6. Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.
7. Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education, and job opportunities / living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.
- Comments (150-word limit)*
(End of Consensus Questions Preview)

Report on LWV Supervision of IMCPL Voting

Hats off to our ten volunteers who were trained 21 May and then assisted 23 May with the vote among Library employees regarding unionization! These LWV members each gave generously of their volunteer time to see that the election was fair and smooth – Sandra Mowell and Ada Shaum (Southport Branch); Carlyn Johnson and Sarah Emerson (Lawrence Branch); Judy Miller and Jane Henderson (Glendale Branch); Harriet Wilkins and Claiborne Handleman (Nora Branch); Carolyn Srivastava and Nancy Smith (Pike Branch).

Interim IMCPL Director, Laura Bramble, as well as representatives of AFSCME (the union with which workers were voting whether to affiliate) each expressed gratitude to the League for its services. The entire process appears to have gone smoothly, from an 88% turn-out of eligible voters, to perfectly-handled, entirely countable, provisional ballots. (The staff did vote in favor of unionizing.)

LWV-Indianapolis is grateful to the Indiana Department of Labor and the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library for the opportunity to help with this process, and we appreciate the Library's financial thank-you payment to our Education Fund, too.

In Memory

Phyllis A. Eggleton

LWV member Phyllis A. LeMaire Eggleton died on 15 May 2007, and her memorial service was held at All Souls Unitarian Church on 26 May. She was a nurse and a long-time LWV member. The League extends its condolences to Phyllis's family and friends.

LWV-Indy Ed Fund Report

The following report was inadvertently left out of the annual meeting program:

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis Education Fund

04.29.06 through 05.19.07

from Jean S. Sallwasser, Ed Fund Treasurer

Starting balance **\$12,321.39**

Income

3 member gifts	\$175.00
Member memorial gift	\$100.00
5 <i>Unigov Handbooks</i>	\$54.00
Voting pamphlet contribution	\$5.00
Total	\$334.50

Expenditures

<i>Remember to Vote</i> yard signs	\$1,047.00
LWV-IN portion of PMP (10%)	\$101.50
LWV-US portion of PMP (50%)	\$889.50
Incorporation Fee (Sec. of State)	\$10.00
Total	\$2,048.00

Final balance **\$10,607.89**

Wrap Up: Coalition Lunch

Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent, IPS

At the March 15th coalition lunch sponsored by LWV-Indianapolis, Church Women United, and the Indianapolis Branch of AAUW, Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of the Indianapolis Public Schools, spoke about the progress being made in the city school district. Dr. White discussed several initiatives aimed at making IPS the "best urban school district in the nation by 2010." These include universal uniforms, emphasis on early-childhood education, language immersion enrichment and International Baccalaureate opportunities, and retraining for teachers who need help in offering instruction to which their pupils will respond.

This fall, all IPS students will dress in uniforms. In general, the uniform will require slacks or skirts (with belts) in black, navy, or khaki, with collared or polo-style shirts in specific solid colors. Cardigans or blazers in the required colors will be acceptable but not required. Although there are various financial and social reasons for the change, Dr. White's main emphasis was that students need to come to class dressed as if they are going to work, and a neat standard appearance can help set habits for a lifetime. Similarity of uniforms across the district will help the numerous students who move within a school year.

Full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools already has been made a priority in IPS, using funds pulled from elsewhere. If the Indiana General Assembly funds full-day kindergarten, Dr. White indicated that the district will offer even earlier education at a number of elementary sites, because children are ready to learn at age 3, and most can be prepared better for kindergarten if they attend pre-kindergarten classes than if they wait at home until age 5.

In terms of academic enrichment, Northwest High School already has begun offering the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma, and several elementary schools are using the "pre-IB" curriculum. Also, there is an elementary Spanish immersion program; there are Montessori options; and there are other enrichment choices. As other alternatives, there will be multiple campuses offering public education to older pupils who cannot deal with traditional classes and schedules -- morning, afternoon, and evening programs are planned.

Dr. White reminds audiences that students "do not care how much an adult knows until they know how much that adult cares." As he discussed the challenge of connecting with young people in the city demographic (where more than 80% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and where the majority live in households headed by a single adult), Dr. White noted the necessity of retraining even dedicated teachers, to help them "reach" their pupils. Culture change never happens easily, and most urban public school students do not arrive at school with strong interest in language and study. Therefore, besides meeting the requirements for a steady regimen of testing, teachers must discover methods to engage the interests of students who may have begun school less than "ready." The district's effort is to build a cadre of caring and dedicated teachers who are ready to nurture the spirit and intellect of every IPS pupil.

Interested observers will watch IPS with special attention in the coming months. It is encouraging to know that Dr. White and his staff are forging ahead with both determined optimism and careful planning.

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.

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 _____.

Date: _____

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

National Issues	State Issues	Regional/Local Issues	Lobbying
Health Issues	Letter Writing	Membership	International Issues
Research	Education Issues	Welfare Issues	Environmental Issues
Election Issues	Fundraising	Observer Corps	Ridesharing

For more information about the League of Women Voters, please call (317) 767-4187.

From:

League of Women Voters of Indianapolis

c/o North United Methodist Church

3808 N. Meridian St.

Indianapolis, IN 46208-4019

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

Join us!

Lunch with LWV Aug. 17, Sept. 21

Constitution Day Sept. 17

Coffee Klatch Sept. 24