



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
April 2007
Volume 88, Number 5

Notes from LWV-US:

Celebrating National Volunteer Week!

LWVUS would like to thank ALL League volunteers who do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy. No other volunteer-based group has the local, state, and national reputation of the League, and we are thrilled to celebrate the contributions of all our volunteers.

Immigration Study

Immigration study background papers are now available at the LWV.ORG website, covering subjects such as impact on the U.S. economy, enforcement issues, motivation and global interdependence as well as an overview of current Federal immigration policy.

Newsletter Submissions may be sent to the editor, Carol Fowler, at CJFowler@sbcglobal.net

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

Meeting and Event Information

Lunch with LWV

Friday 20 April Guest: Chris Stack, M.D.
Noon, Double Eagle Cafeteria,
Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian

LWV-Indiana State Convention

Friday 27 April - Abe Martin Lodge
Sunday 29 April Brown County State Park

Lunch with LWV

Friday 18 May Guest to be announced
Noon, Double Eagle Cafeteria,
Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian

LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting

Saturday 19 May MCL Cafeteria Northwest,
86th and Township Line Road
10 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Reservations due by **May 12**, please see page 2 for details and **reservation form**.

IMCPL Unionization Vote (Volunteer Opportunity)

Wednesday 23 May - Nine Library Locations, please see page 5 for info.

Future Lunches with LWV

Friday 15 June Noon, Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian
Friday 20 July

Future LWV-Indianapolis Board Meetings

Wednesday 2 May 7 P.M. North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian
Saturday 16 June New Board/Old Board Planning Meeting

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.

LWV Indianapolis Annual Meeting:

Saturday, 19 May 2007, 10:00 am

Speaker: Beth White, Marion County Clerk

MCL Cafeteria, 2370 West 86th Street

Annual Meeting

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

Annual Meeting is the yearly business meeting, lunch, and program of LWV-Indianapolis. The event closes one League year and opens another. For LWV-US, LWV-IN, and LWV-Indianapolis, the coming year will be the 89th, for all three were founded in 1920, the same year women gained suffrage.

In that proud tradition, put on your best smile, and join us at MCL Northwest for League business, an address by Beth White (Marion County Clerk), great food, and LWV visiting. Though not a formal occasion, Annual Meeting allows us to enjoy white tablecloths, live flowers, and the ambiance of spring.

Please see business reports for consideration at the meeting beginning on page 5 of this *Bulletin*.

Saturday 19 May 2007
10 A.M. to 1 P.M.
(Sign-in opens at 9:30)
\$16

Why not write your check right now? The cost is sixteen dollars per person, and payment should be mailed in time to arrive by May 12th. Visitors are always welcome. Just complete the form below, add your payment, and mail it in today!

It is always a pleasure to greet others whom we may not have seen since the previous spring. Don't miss Annual Meeting!

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Annual Meeting Reservation Form:

Due by May 12, 2007

Please make check payable to LWV-Indianapolis

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number of people of attending: _____ x \$16 per person = \$ _____ enclosed

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Please mail check with this form to:
League of Women Voters of Indianapolis
c/o North United Methodist Church
3808 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46208-4019

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, 20 April Lunch with LWV

In April, our third-Friday lunches return to Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N Meridian St, Indianapolis, and you won't want to miss this one! Christopher Stack, M.D., is a retired physician who now volunteers his time to talk with citizens about the advisability of single-payer health care. His wife, Ann, is a member of LWV. Dr. Stack's presentation will be our program, and we will have the usual opportunity to visit together from 11:30 (or whenever you arrive from the Double Eagle Café lunch line) in the Truman Room.

The speaker is introduced about 12:15, and we dismiss promptly at 1:00. Parking is free in the lot west of the building, accessed off North St. Invite a friend, and join us!

May 8th Primary Election: Can you help?

As you know, the Indiana primary election date is fast approaching – Tuesday 8 May 2007.

If you are interested in **working** at the polls (but do not yet have a placement), please notify Karen Kay (253-0403) immediately. With the Democratic party now in charge of the Clerk's office, huge numbers of new poll workers will be needed, but all must attend training. Any Leaguer who is willing to work but not to accept a party label can consider serving as an emergency inspector. That person gets on a list, votes absentee, attends training, and then simply shows up at the Clerk's office at 5:30 A.M. on Election Day, to learn whether there is an uncovered precinct to which s/he will be assigned. The work still stretches to a 12-14-hour day, and the pay is \$110.00.

You can't work all day but feel interested in helping League of Women Voters of Indiana to monitor the election process? Then sign up as an **observer**, and spend an hour or three checking on the smoothness of the voting process at one or two sites. You would carry a "watcher" card and a set of survey questions and would talk with poll workers about what parts of the day's procedures had been easy or difficult. After the election, you would mail in your survey. Again, call Karen Kay immediately if you wish an observer assignment.

Spring for Dues

One of our League's two annual membership renewal dates is May 31st. Please check your *Bulletin* label and send in your renewal check if your dues are due! As you will observe from the proposed budget elsewhere in this publication, next year, after state and national PMP (per-member payments), LWV-Indianapolis will keep only \$9.20 of each person's \$50.00 dues – not enough to print and mail newsletters, much less to rent meeting rooms and send delegates to Council or Convention. Right now, member contributions beyond dues are helping to prevent our having to conduct major fundraising. We appreciate this support and thank each of the donors.

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In this space, I want to unfurl a banner of praise for the LWV-Indianapolis officers and Board of Directors, both regular and Ed Fund. They serve the informational, nonpartisan purposes of the League without fanfare or the expectation of personal applause. Some study issues or help others to do so. Some set up meetings and clean up kitchens after them. Some contact public officials to invite them to speak, answer questions, or take a particular position. Some write minutes, write articles, or keep account of finances. Whatever their role, these leaders keep their promises to execute tasks on behalf of the rest of us. I extend my personal thanks and admiration both to the two current Boards and to others of you with whom I have worked across the years. You are the backbone of League of Women Voters. You carry forward a proud tradition and reputation, and the rest of us cannot thank you enough for your unselfish service.

Members, please:

- Express your thanks to Board members you encounter.
- Come to Lunch with LWV April 20th.
- Display your *VOTE!* sign May 5th-8th.
- Help as you can with the election May 8th.
- Offer to assist with the library vote May 23rd.
- Make your reservation before May 12th for Annual Meeting!

Faithfully,
Karen Kay

Available: *Remember to VOTE!* Signs

If any LWV member somehow missed getting a *VOTE!* yard sign last fall, there is an additional opportunity this spring. From now until the May 8th Primary Election, signs will be available for pick-up on Leaguers' front porches in three areas of the city – downtown east, mid-north, and near northwest. You can get yours simply by taking it (and its metal stake, of course) and signing to show that you have done so. If you want to purchase an additional sign for a friend or neighbor, bring a \$10.00 check, written to LWV-Indianapolis Education Fund, to put into the envelope.

These durable corrugated vinyl signs should be displayed with care. Put them out 3-4 days prior to the election, and take them in (to store for future use) after Election Day. If you display yard signs for political candidates, please place the LWV sign well away from them, to avoid the appearance of LWV endorsement of any candidate.

LWV-IN State Convention April 27-29, 2007 Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County

The Leagues of Bloomington/Monroe County and of Brown County have united to host our biennial Convention on 27-29 April 2007. Tracy Heaton de Martinez, Lenora Maze, Carol Fowler, and Becky Bowman will represent our League as delegates at beautiful Brown County State Park. Phyllis Nieske will represent our League as a state Board member.

Besides the necessary business, handled in plenary sessions on Saturday, the Convention will focus on immigration, with a member of the national study committee presenting the keynote speech at 7 P.M. on Friday evening 27 April 2007. She is Katherine Fennelly of LWV-Minnesota. If you are interested in carpooling down to hear her speech and returning home afterward that night, please give Karen Kay a call immediately.

Library (IMCPL) Vote on Unionization Wednesday 23 May

At the May Board meeting, Laura Bramble, Interim Head of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, visited to request that LWV-Indianapolis assist with oversight of its voting process this spring. Your Board of Directors agreed to help with an IMCPL internal election, to be held on Wednesday 23 May 2007, from approximately 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. The single issue is that certain groups of library employees propose to unionize under AFSCME. Employees will have opportunity to vote on the question May 23rd at nine library sites. The Indiana Department of Labor will supply the election training and some of the workers, and LWV-Indianapolis will furnish the balance of workers. Those who help must attend a training session beforehand, probably on Monday 21 May 2007. The League will receive payment for its work.

If you are available on those dates and are interested in assisting, please call Karen Kay.

LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting: Reports for Consideration

Report of the Nominations Committee, Deb Lawrence, Chair

'07-'09 Officers:

President – Tracy Heaton
1st Vice President – Phyllis Nieske
Secretary – Vada Kim

'07-'08 Officer:

2nd Vice President – Becky Bowman (completing term)

'07-'09 Directors:

1) Ada Shaum
2) Lenora Maze
3) Michelle Rollings
4) Virginia Harrison

***'07-'08 Directors* (completing term):**

1) Carol Fowler

***2008 Nominating Committee Chair* –**

Deb Lawrence

2008 Off-Board Nominating Committee Members – Nancy Smith and Karen Kay Leonard

LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting: Reports for Consideration (continued)

Report of the Bylaws Committee, Carol Fowler, Chair

Proposed revision to Article II, Purpose and Policy:

Sec. 1 - Purposes - The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of the citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Sec. 2 - Policy - The League of Women Voters of Indianapolis shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

Background:

LWV-US updated the League Mission Statement immediately following the 2006 Convention to remove the phrase “of the citizens”. They requested we update our bylaws statement in this same manner.

Report of the Program Committee, Harriet Wilkins, Chair

Proposed Program Emphasis

During the 2007-08 program year, the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis will conduct extensive observation and monitoring of meetings of public boards and committees including the City/County Council and its committees, township advisory boards, councils of the excluded cities, school boards, and other public agencies.

The Board of the Indianapolis League will create a committee to organize and oversee this task. The committee will

- compile a list of regularly scheduled meetings of public entities and contact information for each
- encourage and recruit League members to attend public meetings. The goal is to have 60% of League members attend at least one public meeting during the year.
- establish ways for League members to report on their observations. These might include a standard observation form, regularly scheduled meetings of the committee at which members can report on their observations, reports in the *Bulletin*, a general meeting to discuss findings, etc.
- review the observations of League members and report to the Board on issues needing further action or study

The goals of the project are two-fold: (1) to improve League members’ knowledge of decision-making in government bodies in Marion County and (2) to demonstrate the need for public accountability and transparency to government bodies by having members of the public exercise their right to attend public meetings.

LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting: Reports for Consideration (continued)

Report of the Budget Committee, Ada Shaum, Chair

Proposed Budget 2007-2008 (FY 2008)

<u>Income</u>	Notes	Operating Budget	Ed Fund Budget
<i>Ed Fund</i>			
From Ed Fund			\$1,160.00
<i>Membership</i>			
Dues	(est. 75 members @ \$50.00 each, not Life or N#V)	\$ 3,750.00	
Contributions	(estimated)	\$ 1,000.00	
<i>Investments</i>			
Interest		\$ 500.00	
<i>Fundraising / Reserves</i>			
Estimated Total		\$ 870.00	
	Total Income	\$ 6,120.00	\$1,160.00
<u>Expenses</u>			
<i>Membership</i>			
LWV-IN PMP	(\$14/dues-paying member)	\$ 945.00	\$ 105.00
LWV-US PMP	(\$26.80/dues-paying member)	\$ 1,005.00	\$1,005.00
Recruitment		\$ 50.00	
Roster – biennial	(copy, assemble & mail)	\$ 300.00	
Newsletter	(copy, assemble, mail <i>Bulletin</i>)	\$1,000.00	
<i>Operating</i>			
Rent	(\$50/ month for NUMC closet, mailbox, board mtg. space)	\$ 600.00	
Telephone	(voicemail - \$23.63/ mo.)	\$ 290.00	
Website	(potential update)	\$ 50.00	
Postage	(general; not <i>Bulletin</i>)	\$ 100.00	
Supplies	(office)	\$ 50.00	
Copying	(misc.)	\$ 50.00	
Incidental expenses		\$ 50.00	
<i>Organizational Health</i>			
US, IN Convention, Council (registrations)		\$ 1,000.00	
Interleague & Org. Networking (ventures, memb.)		\$ 200.00	
<i>Program & Meetings</i>			
Facilities	(rental)	\$ 180.00	
Monthly Luncheons	(meals for speakers)	\$ 80.00	
Voter Service		\$ 20.00	\$ 50.00
Committee expenses		\$ 50.00	
Public Relations		\$ 50.00	
Special Events Reserve		\$ 50.00	
	Total Expenses	\$ 6,120.00	\$1,160.00

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 Apr. 20, May 18

Annual Meeting May 19