



# 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  
March 2007  
Volume 88, Number 4

## Notes from LWV-US:

### Finishing Your Taxes?

Check off the box for Presidential Public Financing. As you prepare your federal taxes in the coming weeks, be sure to support the League's mission by checking the box in support of Presidential public financing.

### ACTION ALERT: Act Now on DC Voting Rights

Legislation to provide voting rights in the House for citizens of the District of Columbia, H.R. 328, can go to the floor for passage early this year. Please contact your Representative and ask for quick action in the new Congress to pass the bill.

### Women's History Month

In celebration of Women's History Month, the LWVUS has created a special web page. Please visit it at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Newsletter Submissions may be sent to the editor, Carol Fowler, at [CJFowler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:CJFowler@sbcglobal.net)

LWV-Indianapolis:  
Voicemail: 317-767-4187  
Email: [LWVIndy@att.net](mailto:LWVIndy@att.net)  
[www.indygov.org/lwv](http://www.indygov.org/lwv)

## Meeting and Event Information

### Collaboration Lunch – With AAUW and Church Women United

Thursday 15 March Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of IPS  
10:45 A.M. North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian  
See page 2 for details.

### 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

### LWV-Indianapolis Annual Meeting

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

### Future Lunches with LWV

Friday 18 May Guests to be announced,  
Friday 15 June Noon, Scottish Rite Cathedral, 650 N. Meridian

### Future LWV-Indianapolis Board Meetings

Wednesday 4 April 7 P.M. North UMC, 3808 N. Meridian  
Wednesday 2 May

*The League of Women Voters is a time-tested nonpartisan, nonprofit, volunteer political organization, dedicated to promoting active and informed citizen 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.*

# **Collaboration Lunch Meeting:**

**Thursday, 15 March 2007, 10:45 am**

**Dr. Eugene White,  
Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools**

**North United Methodist Church, 3808 North Meridian Street**

## **Pitch in for Lunch and Hear Dr. White on March 15<sup>th</sup>**

The League of Women Voters has joined with the Indianapolis Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW) and Church Women United (CWU) to sponsor a program featuring Dr. Eugene White, Superintendent of the Indianapolis Public Schools, on Thursday 15 March 2007, in the Fellowship Hall of North United Methodist Church. Several other organizations have been invited to send members to the meeting if they are interested. To help insure an adequate set-up, RSVP by Tuesday 13 March. Either call Karen Kay Leonard's answer machine (253-0403) or e-mail her at [lwvindy@att.net](mailto:lwvindy@att.net), giving your name and telephone number, plus the number of individuals for whom you are responding.

For lunch, please bring a salad, bread, or dessert to share, and try to arrive by 10:45, in order to drop off your food and find a seat prior to the program. North UMC is located on the northwest corner of 38<sup>th</sup> and Meridian Streets. There is ample parking in the paved lots adjoining the building. Passengers can disembark at the drive-through beside the West Entry. Though there are elevators from the main floor down to the Fellowship Hall, the least walking is accomplished by coming through the church's south door and then up on the elevator to the Lower Level (LL).

At 11 A.M., Dr. White will be presented to discuss the progress happening in our city's largest school district, IPS. Since he has previously held administrative posts in Ft. Wayne, IPS, and Washington Township, Dr. White thoroughly understands the position of public schools in Indiana. He has the passion of a caring parent and teacher, combined with the determination of a competitive boxer. Come hear what he has to say!

At noon, the meal will be served, and formal adjournment will take place about 1 P.M. If you are able to take a "long lunch" that day, please plan to join us.

## **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, (next door to our former office), in case you should want or need to visit.

## LWV-Indianapolis

### Annual Meeting

19 May 2007, MCL Northwest

Save the date! LWV-Indianapolis again will hold its Annual Meeting at MCL Cafeteria northwest (roughly Township Line Road and 86<sup>th</sup> Street), from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. on Saturday 19 May 2007. The LWV business meeting will be followed by a delicious lunch and a presentation by the new Marion County Clerk, Beth White. You won't want to miss this opportunity to determine LWV officers, bylaws, and plans, and to learn more about local government.

### Annual Meeting Committees

In March, the committees preparing Annual Meeting items function so that they can submit their recommendations to the Board for approval and publication in April. That way, members will have the requisite 30-days' notice about suggestions to be decided during the business meeting. If you are willing to help any of the groups below, please call our LWV voicemail (767-4187) *today* and make your preference known. Please spell your last name and leave a call-back number.

Budget – Ada Shaum, chair  
 Nominating – Deb Lawrence, chair  
 Bylaws – Carol Fowler, chair  
 Program Proposals – Harriet Wilkins, chair  
 Arrangements – Vada Kim, chair

## Immigration Introduction

At the introductory general meeting on immigration held Thursday 22 February 2007, Angela Iza, an immigration attorney with the law firm of Lewis & Kappes, and Lorena Alvarado, Diplomat for the Mexican Consulate (of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and southern Illinois) were the speakers. Our own Tracy Heaton de Martinez generously provided a selection of Mexican-style baked goods for the group's enjoyment.

There currently are approximately 11 million undocumented persons in the U.S. Most came here hoping to work or to live with family members. Ms. Iza made clear two primary problems:

1. Persons who enter the U.S. without inspection **cannot adjust their status** without going back to their home countries and returning legally. The wait-time for such reentry is **three years** if the person was in the U.S. for 180 days; it is **ten years** if the person was in the U.S. for one year.
2. There is a huge backlog of persons awaiting various visas. In 2007, the year's available H1-B visas were used up within two months. The "green card" (permission for lawful permanent residency) has a 4-year wait-list.

Ms. Alvarado noted simply that Hispanic residents are here, and "we need to handle it." As a diplomat, she works within the framework of the Vienna Convention to assist Spanish-speaking residents in obtaining their papers (such as birth certificates) and to guide them through the legal system. In the states to which she is assigned, she estimates that there may be as many as 300 thousand Hispanic residents.

Both women made clear the complexity of the U.S. immigration system about which LWV is set to learn as the two-year LWV-US study progresses.

## 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:**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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

Nearly everyone admits that the U.S. system of health coverage is broken. Numerous people have ideas for how to fix it. Come to the Double Eagle Café in Scottish Rite Cathedral from noon to one on Friday 20 April to hear a presentation on health care reform by Chris Stack, M.D., a retired Indianapolis physician.

### March Lunch with LWV

Our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday lunch at Scottish Rite is canceled this month. Instead, we will gather Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 A.M. at North UMC, 3808 N Meridian, to hear Dr. Eugene White and to share a pitch-in lunch. (Please see page 2.)

## Lunch Recaps

### January Lunch with LWV

Indra Frank, M.D., described for listeners her determination as a pathologist to work against the deadly threat of environmental mercury. Whether the pollution emanates from industrial waste or is housed in fish flesh, more action is needed to restrain its spread. Some League listeners mentally changed their next fish order after seeing Indra's list. Others put their heads together, contacted LWV-IN president, Joanne Evers, and elicited a "public comment" from LWV-IN to the Department of Environmental Management. It is great when advocacy action can result from such a meeting!

### February Lunch with LWV

Paulette Vandegriff, former LWV-IN president and current LWV-IN legislative liaison, braved the ice of a frigid February Friday to talk with us at Scottish Rite about issues pending in the General Assembly. She focused on bills related to reproductive choice, apportionment / redistricting, elections, voting, and voter registration, reminding listeners that the time for still-active legislation to switch houses was very near. The biggest surprise of the previous week had been the stripping and refile of a bill with provisions to allow Indiana citizens to vote by mail.

## L<sup>3</sup>

Occasionally it is important to remind readers of what they can do for the League. Like members of other volunteer organizations, Leaguers sometimes erroneously expect that the employed national staff will keep LWV moving forward, or they tend to assume that the “real” action happens at the state level, either when the legislature is in session or when officials are being elected. In truth, citizen engagement is needed at all levels all the time. Leaguers work to keep the organization alive, to monitor governmental activities, and to serve voters via education and advocacy.

So what tasks (regular or occasional) are available for LWV-Indianapolis members to do?

**Short-term** (fewer than five occurrences across 3 months)

- Respond to Action Alerts by contacting your legislator(s).
- Volunteer as a helper for the luncheon March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Register voters and deliver their applications to the Statehouse or City-County Building.
- Serve as a poll worker or watcher in the May 8<sup>th</sup> election.
- Volunteer to serve on an Annual Meeting committee.
- Observe and report on one specific public meeting.
- Help gather information for a LWV publication.

**Mid-term** (6-9 occurrences across 6-12 months)

- Serve as a caller to remind others of LWV events.
- Volunteer as the LWV observer/reporter for a public body<sup>1</sup> for a designated time-period.
- Plan one LWV event, such as a program or a fundraiser.

**Long-term** (monthly or more frequent occurrences across a year or two)

- Serve on a local study committee.
- Serve as a local LWV officer or Board member.
- Volunteer for an ongoing committee, such as Membership Development or Meeting Planning.
- Relate to LWV-IN as a liaison, an advocate, or a reporter for one favorite issue.

The impact of the League name diminishes perceptibly as our nation moves away from a culture of ongoing volunteerism. If you believe, as I do, that the fire of LWV energy must continue to shed light on public policy and to provide heat that keeps government focused on the public good, then do not let this season pass without contributing your efforts somewhere!

Faithfully,  
Karen Kay

## LWV-IN State Convention

**April 27-29, 2007**

**Abe Martin Lodge, Brown County**

Delegates from LWV-Indianapolis will attend the biennial state convention in Brown County in April, to participate in the business meetings for the state LWV, as well as to learn from our guest expert, a member of the LWV-US Immigration Study committee. As always, there will be stimulating opportunities to learn from other Leagues and new acquaintances and friends to meet. Look for reports from this group later in the spring.

Our League thanks several persons who are doing “double duty” in local and state leadership: Phyllis Nieske, who at Convention will complete her term on the state Board; Tracy Heaton de Martinez, who coordinates the Homeland Security / Citizens’ Rights watch for LWV-IN; Erin Kelley, who represents LWV-IN on HAPA (and who contributed so much to planning the successful demonstration at the capitol on February 8<sup>th</sup>); Harriet Wilkins, who is a former LWV-IN President now leading the LWV-IN Investments & Development Committee; and Karen Kay Leonard, who will be nominated to begin a term on the state Board.

<sup>1</sup> For example, school board or other public board, township advisory committee, City-County Council or a dependent committee, etc.

## January General Meeting: Report of Review of Positions and Program Planning

Report on Review of Local Positions  
1/27/07

**LWV-Indianapolis approves retention without change of all its current local positions – government, schools, judicial system, fiscal policy, and environment.**

- Study possibilities – publicly-funded political campaigns; clean money for local elections; term limits

---

Report on Review of State Positions  
1/27/07

**LWV-Indianapolis approves retention of all the current state positions, though it would favor consideration of the following:**

- Elections – Should school board elections be moved to the fall?
- Elections – Let's study the possibility of using Vote Centers. (If township government is eradicated, then communities might consider using those properties as vote centers.)
- Elections – LWV should *always* monitor elections.
- Poll Workers – Action needed: LWV should try to insure that workers receive better training!
- Voter ID – Considering the LWV position on the Indiana Voter ID Law, should the wording of our state position specify approval of voter registration “without causing an undue burden”?
- Education – Require adequate civics education in high school! Let's recommend including community issues as part of that curriculum.

## Illegal Drug Study Concurrence

In addition to the review of local and state positions, we also considered the proposed statewide position on the illegal drug/methamphetamine problem at our general meeting on January 27, 2007. Below is the summary of our concurrence with the position.

The membership concurred with the position statement in full without revision.

During our discussion of the position, several concerns were raised. These included topics such as:

- The root cause of the problem is not being addressed by society (e.g., unjust systems, poverty, unemployment, and need for altered state of consciousness).
- There is interest in a cost analysis of a coordinated program versus the cost of addressing and financing the individual aspects of the problem separately.
- Our group asked if there are successful methamphetamine programs that could be promoted and modeled.
- Our group asked to be kept informed of related legislation to support.

# 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!

Collaboration Meeting Mar. 15

Lunch with LWV Apr. 20