



The League Letter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette, Indiana

August-September 2008

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to the active and informed participation of citizens in government.

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League of Women Voters
of Greater Lafayette
PO Box 2085
West Lafayette IN 47996
www.leaguelafayette.org

League members will help educate voters at YWCA Luncheon on September 8

“Getting Past the Sound-Bites: How to Be an Educated Voter” is the title of a panel discussion our League has put together to begin the YWCA fall luncheon series on **Monday, September 8. Lunch will begin at 11:30** with the program scheduled to start at noon.

The panel will consist of League experts Jean Andres and Jane Frankenberger, plus Julie Doll, Executive Editor of the *Journal and Courier*, and one of the experienced anchors from WLFI. The panel will tell us where we can go to find relevant information to help us make informed choices when we vote for local, state, and national offices in November, and we will have a chance to ask questions of the panel members.

If you plan to attend the luncheon you must **make a reservation with the YWCA receptionist by Friday, September 5 at noon.** We hope you’ll all take advantage of this timely opportunity. —*Jo Ann Mullen*

Celebrate Constitution Day with us!

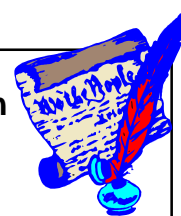
Constitution Day 2008 will be BIG for our League. On **Wednesday evening September 17** we will present the inaugural *Making Democracy Work Award* to a woman in the community who has seen an unmet need, worked to meet that need, and inspired others to work with her.

Nominations for the award were solicited beginning in May, and in August the committee met to chose the winner. Thanks to Sonya Margerum, Mariellen Neudeck and Sue Scholer for their time, thoughtful comments, and willingness to make a difficult decision.

After the award presentation, Louis Mahern will discuss the report of the Governor’s Select Committee on Local Government (the Shepard-Kernan Report). As a member of that committee he is knowledgeable about the ins and outs of local government and the decisions the committee made. If adopted, provisions in the report will reduce redundancy in services, increase efficiencies in operations and increase voter input on spending. However, the devil is in the details. Learn what the report really suggests.

Join us in the meeting room at the Tippecanoe County Public Library in downtown Lafayette at 7pm for these two very special events. —*Jean Andres*

Constitution Day 2008 Celebration



- ◆ Presentation of the *Making Democracy Work Award*
- ◆ Report of the Governor’s Select Committee on Local Government

**Wed Sept 17
7:00pm**

Tipp. Co Public Library

Referendum will ask voters about township assessors

A referendum that will be submitted to the voters in the general election will read as follows: "Should the assessing duties of the elected township assessor in the township be transferred to the county assessor?"

This will be held in townships in which the number of parcels of real property exceeds 15,000. In Tippecanoe County, this provision affects Fairfield Township. Included in Fairfield Township is most of the city of Lafayette.

This referendum is derived from the Kernan Shepherd report in its recommendations to improve the efficiency and reduce the overall cost of government in Indiana.

We should note that Indiana has more township assessors than any other state in our country. So, this is an important step in the effort to modernize and bring greater efficiency to our government.

—John Corey

League members help make County Fair booth a big success

Several members of the Greater Lafayette League braved the heat and dust to work at the county fair booth sponsored by HAPA (Health Access and Privacy Alliance).

Along with members of other HAPA groups such as the Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Planned Parenthood, and Indiana NOW, League volunteers helped raise awareness about Prevention First, proposed legislation to reduce unintended pregnancies in Indiana.

Volunteers also provided election information and voter registration.

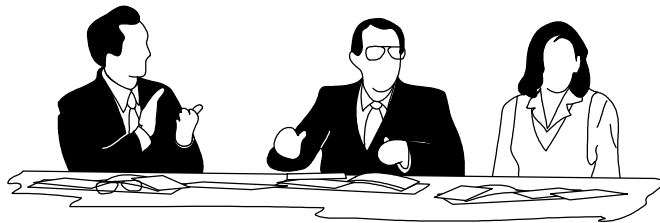
Learn more about HAPA and about Prevention First at www.hapaindiana.org/action.html

—Kaye McSpadden

Candidates Forum for local state legislators

Morton Center will be the place to be on

Monday, September 15 at 7pm. Our League will again join with WALLA (Wabash Area Lifetime



Learning Association) and present a candidates forum for those running for state Legislator or Senator representing Tippecanoe County. Jeff Smith, WLFI news anchor, will be the moderator and members of WALLA and the League will act as greeters and timers, and will collect and sort audience questions.

If you can assist, please contact Jean Andres at 449-7041 or andres1003@comcast.net.

—Jean Andres

Brush up your voting "smarts"

Just when did Native Americans get the right to vote? What are the only three reasons you can vote absentee in Indiana? Get the answer to these questions and review your general knowledge of voting in Indiana the evening of **Thursday September 4 at 7:00pm at the Tippecanoe County Library** in downtown Lafayette.

Winnie Adler and Jean Andres have been boning up on voting laws and a representative from the Board of Election and Registration will bring a voting machine for hands-on voting practice.

Designed for the library's Youth Advisory Council, this program is open to all. Come and bring a friend—we all might learn something new and surprising.

—Jean Andres

What is the League's position on health care reform?

Delegates to the LWVUS Convention in June voted to establish an education task force to update members throughout the country, prepare them to take action on health care reform and to effectively evaluate candidates' positions. The following is a summary of the current position, adopted in 1994.

The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Through decades of work in their communities, League members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that healthcare reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account.

The League Letter is published bi-monthly. The editor is Kaye McSpadden. Please send your articles to kaye7m@aol.com.

Local League to launch fundraising campaign

Like most not-for-profit organizations, the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette is struggling to continue to provide its level of programs and services in these tough economic times. Our work of encouraging citizen involvement in safeguarding our democracy has never been more important, but our resources are shrinking and our expenses are rising.

Last year we increased our dues because our per-member payment to the state and national Leagues exceeded the amount of our dues. The increase gave us a cushion of under \$900 to fund our local expenses, augmented by our sales of calendars. But the per-member dues to state and national continue to rise, our expenses go up like everything else, and our calendar sales have been declining.

In recent years, the number of calendars sold by members has gone down dramatically. The greatest number of sales have been through Osco, but now that CVS has taken over those stores, we may lose that outlet altogether. To continue to provide the educational programs and materials as we have in the past, our League must raise additional revenue.

For this reason, we are going to embark on a finance drive. In the next few weeks, we will be sending a fundraising letter to people in the community we have identified as being committed to the vital work of the League, including our members. Contributions to the League fund the day-to-day operation, paying for such costs as printing and postage and various expenses associated with our activities. Contributions to the League's education fund pay for all action and membership-related activities at the local level.

Our board has planned an exciting variety of important programs and activities in the coming year. In order to present them all, we need your help. Your gift will help us work for civic improvement through hands-on involvement in the democratic process.

—Betty Doversberger

An old tradition, the League Lunch— time for something new?

For quite a few years a small group of League members, anywhere from two to a dozen, has been meeting for lunch at Jane's Deli on North 4th Street, beginning at noon and usually ending by 1:00, with people coming and going as their schedules dictate.

Often we will talk about politics or topics related to our study items, but we also talk about travels and families and just things that are going on with our friends in the League or in the community.

We realize that some people's work schedules don't permit them to meet at lunch time so we're asking for suggestions for an alternative. This would not necessarily be something to replace the lunch but simply to give others a chance to meet for casual conversation on a regular basis.

Please send any ideas you might have to jocmullen@yahoo.com and I will pass them on to the Board for consideration.

—Jo Ann Mullen



Local citizens invited to meet with Wabash River planning group

The first opportunity for the public to meet with Wallace, Roberts & Todd, the firm that is working on a plan to enhance our river corridor, will be September 4.

Come and learn what the planning group has done so far and share your goals and ideas for the corridor! Your input at this stage will provide a basis for development of enhancement plan alternatives, which will be the next phase of the planning process.

All local citizens are invited to attend and provide input on **Thursday, September 4 at 7pm at the Holiday Inn Center City Select Hotel** in downtown Lafayette.

Program planning review set for November 18

The biennial review of state action positions and the annual review of our local positions will take place on **Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the West Lafayette Public Library**. We will examine only eight state positions because fifteen others are under intense review by statewide committees. Our local positions, recently reconfirmed by the membership at the May annual meeting, will be re-examined. The program planning meeting also offers an opportunity for members to recommend new state or local studies.

Member participation is important. For your convenience the Board is providing a light supper. More details will be published in the next newsletter but in the meantime be sure to mark your calendar for **Tuesday, November 18. Dinner will be at 6:00pm and the meeting will be 6:30-8:00pm.**

—Winnie Adler



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- **Sept 4**—Presentation to TCPL Youth Advisory Council, Tipp Co Pub Library, 7pm
- **Sept 8**—League program at YWCA Network Luncheon, reservation deadline 9/5 noon
- **Sept 15**—Candidate forum with WALLA, 7pm, Morton Center
- **Sept 17**—Constitution Day Celebration, Tippecanoe Co Pub Lib, 7pm
- **Nov 18**—Program Planning review, W Lafayette Public Library, 6-8pm

Join the League

YES, I want to be a member of the League of Women Voters!

- \$50 1-year individual membership
- \$75 1-year household membership
- \$25 student membership
- I'm enclosing an additional contribution of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable and mail to:

LWVGL
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Membership in the local league includes membership in the state and national League of Women Voters.

Thank you!

Have you checked out the League website? It's a great source of info!

The website features many helpful items including: a calendar of activities, our positions, information on voting, and the Directory of Local Officials. —Jane Frankenberger

