



# LWVGL Voter

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

Fall 2013

*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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## Welcome New Board!



Left to right are: Margaret Brender, Deb Schwarte, Michael Oxenrider, Patsy Hoyer, Jean Andres, Donna Giroux, Rae Schnapp. Missing from the photo are Sarah Kelly and Teena Flook.

## President's Note



“Democracy is not a spectator sport,” as said by Lotte Scharfman. That, could be our theme for this coming year, with the sharp divides and atmosphere of non-compromise, over many social, economic, environmental, educational, and other issues. The strong, thoughtful voice of our non-partisan League of Women Voters, adding the clarity of our studied positions, is more important than ever. This is not an election year, but will be a busy one for us with our tried and true projects as well as adding a few new ones that you will be hearing about soon. We will be using social media more, and will even be tweeting!

We have an energetic board, some long-time members and some newer. We are looking forward to working with you and thank you for your support, whether it is volunteering, writing a check to help defray the costs of our projects, helping share our ideas and recruit new members, or all of these. If you have been active, thank you, if you have been less active, join us, and bring a friend—we need you. —Patsy Hoyer, President



## Board Member

<i>Name and Position on Board</i>	<i>Length of membership</i>	<i>Career</i>	<i>Hobbies, Interests</i>
<b>Patsy Hoyer,</b> President	~15 yrs	Family Nurse Practitioner for 38 Yrs, now caring for children and adults with mental health problems and patients with neurological conditions. I have practiced in a variety of settings—Alcoa Corp. Headquarters, school health, public health, Planned Parenthood, primary care, and I wrote the original grants for Riggs Clinic Adult and Homeless Outreach programs.	Gardening, reading, and volunteering for several community mental health projects.
<b>Margaret Brender,</b> Treasurer	1 yr	Retired now, I was in finance and marketing.	Aviation, reading.
<b>Deborah “Deb” Schwarte,</b> Secretary	8 yrs	Writer/Editor.	Writing, drawing & painting, sailing, photography, model trains (with my husband), interest in animals, love of tea.
<b>Sarah Kelly,</b> Director coordinating voter registration for high school seniors	3 yrs	Retired for five years. Was a librarian in Purdue’s Life Sciences Library for almost 25 years. For eight of those years was head of that library.	Singing, gardening, reading.
<b>Jean Andres,</b> Voter Service, Preparation of Community Calendar	40+ yrs	1 <sup>st</sup> grade teacher, children’s librarian, coordinator for a disability awareness puppet troupe.	Reading, travel, gardening (now just a supervisor rather than an active participant).
<b>Rae Schnapp,</b> Legislative liaison	off and on 15 yrs	Wabash Riverkeeper.	Protecting water quality, promoting local foods & sustainable agriculture, building sustainable communities.
<b>Michael Oxenrider,</b> Voter Co-Editor, Legislative Liaison	Almost 2 yrs	Director of Education and Marketing at Mental Health America & Freelance Editor/Writer.	19 <sup>th</sup> century literature, politics, economics, mindfulness, Sci-Fi TV.
<b>Donna Giroux,</b> Database manager	~40 yrs.	Hospital Pharmacist.	Cooking, gardening, traveling.
<b>Teena Flook, TBA</b>	3 yrs	Retired English teacher and high school/district administrator. First women’s basketball coach for East Noble High School in 1973 after Title IX was passed.	Reading, CASA Volunteer, Aquacize, volunteering in other community organizations.

# Profiles



What you feel you bring to the LWV	The LWV is important to the community because:
(see President's note)	(see President's note)
I bring a financial background and an MBA degree in Finance that helps me be the LWV of Greater Lafayette's Treasurer.	The LWV proactively gets out the votes; fosters community communication through debates, legislative sessions, the Officials Directory; and provides specific information about what's happening at the State level.
My ability to write and communicate, my organizational skills, and my dedication to the disabled voter	The LWV helps to maintain the interests of the individual in the voting process. As a married woman with a blind husband and with her own physical disabilities, I have always worried about access and availability with the voting booths. The League is dedicated to informing the public about such matters and keeping the community comfortable with the current standing of our public officials. Now we need to help others to have a more positive outlook and to quit "fighting" over the issues, so that we can continue to work together with greater comfort and compassion.
Interest in community affairs and ability to organize activities	The League provides reliable, well-researched information on issues important to the community and facilitates communication between local legislators and their constituents. It also promotes voter registration.
Past LWVGL Secretary; I am willing to help out and I am dependable.	The LWV brings a non-partisan voice to community affairs. Members are committed to the League positions and will work over (sometimes long) periods of time to set positive actions on the positions. It continues to be a great place to meet interesting people who have diverse interests and skills.
Background in environmental science and experience with legislative process	The LWV promotes awareness about how our government works at the local, state and national level, and provide opportunities for the public to learn about elected officials and candidates.
A passion for democracy and civic engagement	The LWV has a commitment to non-partisanship. There is a mutual respect between our organization and our elected officials, for the citizen and the government, that places us in a unique role to provide the highest level communication and outreach to the community without the propaganda and bias typically associated with politics.
Commitment to goals, processes and purposes, experience in League and life, ability to work on a team	We are the only multi-issue, nonpartisan organization working for civic engagement.
Experience/knowledge in organizational change and organizational culture and also ability to balance it with reality	The LWV assures a certain amount of fairness in presentation of political issues, and it has proven that it can impact an issue.



## Voter Service— Always in motion!

Joanne Evers, Voter Service Coordinator

Even in a non-election year in Tippecanoe County voter registration is important. New residents come to town, residents turn 18 and new citizens become naturalized. Assisting with voter registration is one of our strongest responsibilities and visibility activities as a League.

LWVIN sponsored an information booth at the State Fair from August 2-18, 2013 providing voter registration and education to fair goers. Each local League staffed the booth on a particular day and LWVGL was accounted for on August 11. Thanks to all who made the journey to the state fair and assisted those who stopped by to visit with the League. Participants included Corrina Than, Roberta Schoneman, Patty Jischke and Rae Schnapp.

LWVGL will once again register new citizens to vote following the Naturalization Ceremony at Morton Community Center on August 30, 2013. If you have not already signed up to assist with this activity, contact Joanne Evers, [eversjd@comcast.net](mailto:eversjd@comcast.net) or 497-1040.

In September, LWVGL will participate with Purdue University for Constitution Day. This is an opportunity to have our information seen by faculty and students alike, provide voter education materials and encourage membership in the League. If you have a few hours to assist with this project, contact Joanne Evers. The date of the event is to be announced soon.

National Voter Registration Day sponsored by many organizations across the country including LWVUS is September 24, 2013. Volunteers are needed to assist with this event that is currently in its planning stages.

Joanne is looking for volunteers to serve on a Voter Service Education Committee. There is much that can be done this year to register voters, educate citizens on civic responsibilities and plan for the 2014 elections to be held in Tippecanoe County. Your ideas and commitment to voting is needed to plan for increased voter turnout for local, state and national elections. Yes, indeed, contact Joanne to contribute your expertise.



anna Community Center

## Come to Lafayette's Hanna Fest

Hanna Fest is an exciting festival put on each year by Lafayette's Hanna Center. The Hanna Community Center provides programs and services to the Greater Lafayette community in an effort to improve community standards, and facilitate the development of those efforts. They reach out to many groups in this effort, helping and growing with our community members regardless of age, sex, gender, color, or religion.

The League will help with education and registration at the Hanna Fest this year. The festival will be rich with community vendors, fun activities, and educational youth-oriented games. Come out to the Hanna Fest on Monday, September 2, Noon-5! For questions call the center at 742-0191.

## Calendar

August 26 — Women's Equality Day

August 30 — Naturalization Ceremony, Morton Community Center, 2:00 PM

Sept 2 — Hanna Fest, Hanna Community Center, Noon—5:00 PM

Sept 12 — League Link Lunch, Jane's Deli, Noon

Sept 17 — Constitution Day

Sept 17 — LWVGL Board Meeting, West Lafayette Public Library, 5:30 PM

Oct 19 — LWVIN Regional Workshop, Morton Community Center, 11:00AM—3:00 PM



Everyone in the League would like to give a special thanks to the outgoing board members —Joanne Evers, Betty Doversberger, Sherry McLauchlan, Deb Schwarte, and Donna Giroux.

We thank you for your service and commitment to democracy. We wouldn't be where we are without everything you've done.





## Naturalization Ceremony

Each Labor Day weekend the City of West Lafayette, the West Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department and the Northern District of Indiana United States District Court prepare a Naturalization Ceremony for individuals who have gone through the process to become United States citizens. This year the ceremony will be held on Friday, August 30, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot of Morton Community Center, 222 N Chauncey Avenue, West Lafayette, IN. Approximately 100 people will become United States citizens at this ceremony from all over the district and also in attendance there will be their guests and other dignitaries.

A previously naturalized citizen is asked to give a brief inspirational speech regarding their experience. This year's speaker is Asako Iikubo who immigrated from Japan in 1987. In addition to the speaker, there will be music provided by the Purduettes, and the posting of the colors by the Purdue Tri-Color Guard. In all it is a very moving and patriotic ceremony. The ceremony is usually around an hour long. I think this is the 19<sup>th</sup> year we have hosted the ceremony!

In case of bad weather we will move the ceremony to University Church, 320 North Street, WL. Free parking is available in the Grant Street Parking Garage. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me on my landline at [765-743-4009](tel:765-743-4009) or on my cell phone [765-409-5522](tel:765-409-5522).

Thank you!!  
Linda Eales, [leales@gmail.com](mailto:leales@gmail.com)



New citizens are sworn in at Global Fest

### INVITE A NEW MEMBER TO THE LEAGUE LINK LUNCH

The League is active and looking for new members this year. It may not be an election year, but changes to voter registration and upcoming league positions are keeping us busy. Invite a friend to one of our League Link Lunches. The Second Thursday of every month there is a table reserved at Jane's Deli, 524 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lafayette. This is a long standing, informal gathering over lunch to talk and learn about current events, maintain friendships and create new ones. It's a great way to introduce people to the League and its members.

*We the People*

### Celebrate Constitution Day

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. We encourage all Americans to observe this important day in our nation's history by attending local events in your area. Celebrate Constitution Day through activities, learning, parades and demonstrations of our love for the United State of America and the blessings of freedom our Founding Fathers secured for us.

**Women's Equality Day** commemorates 26th August 1920 when votes to women officially became part of the US constitution. At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day." This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights.



## Agriculture Study

The LWV United States is currently preparing an update of our position on Federal Agriculture Policy. The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.



To help prepare you for participation in discussion and consensus on this issue the study committee has identified three specific background documents that provide a broad and relatively neutral overview of the complex set of issues addressed by U.S. agricultural policy and three websites that provide similar types of information, but from the website sponsor's point of view. <http://www.lwv.org/content/agriculture-update-suggested-summer-readings>

### **The League's Position as adopted in 1988 is as follows:**

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.** Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

**AGRICULTURAL PRICES.** The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

**AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.** U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

**FARM CREDIT.** Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.

**The LWV Greater Lafayette does not currently have a leader for this study. If you are interested, contact a board member for more information. The LWVUS study committee is expected to propose consensus questions this month. Local leagues would then hold consensus meetings in winter or spring 2014.**

## LWVGL TO HOST REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 19th from 11am-3pm will find members from Leagues across Central Indiana gathered at Morton Community Center. Tentative plans call for the program to include current issues concerning voter registration, changes to the voting rights act, info on parts of the current national agricultural study and time for networking. All are welcome. The only cost is lunch (\$ not yet determined) and your time.

This meeting is a great way to get energized.

A few volunteers are needed to help with registration. Please contact Jean Andres ([andres1003@comcast.net](mailto:andres1003@comcast.net) or 743-0722) to volunteer or if you have questions.



## HONOR ROLL

*Donors between January and now*

### MEMBER DONORS

<b>LastName</b>	<b>FirstName</b>
Andres	Jean and Ron
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### NONMEMBER DONORS

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Wade	Joann
Weiss	Danny
Miller	Amy
Rosenthal	Sheila

### Membership callout

#### Join the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a breath of fresh air in today's political climate. Non-partisan (not bipartisan, non-partisan) and fact-based, the League serves a vital role in our election process and civic engagement. Not only does the League register voters, we host programs, serve as a well-respected conduit for communication with our local elected officials, and write well-researched, fact-based positions. We're always looking for new members to help us with our mission.

Just write a check and mail it to LWV Great Lafayette, P.O. Box 2085, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2085

\_\_\_ \$50 one year Individual Membership

\_\_\_ \$75 one year Household Membership

\_\_\_ \$25 one year Student Membership

Membership Scholarships are available. For information contact LWVGL at [membership@leaguelafayette.org](mailto:membership@leaguelafayette.org)

**MANY THANKS FROM THE  
MEMBERSHIP TEAM!**