



LWVGL Voter

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

Winter 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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2012-2013**

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The LWVGL Voter is published quarterly. The editor is Marlee Pierce Posto. Please send your articles to marlee.pierce@gmail.com

WHERE WE STAND! The League and Health Care

The League of Women Voters believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. We favor a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes. Some refer to this as “improved Medicare for all”. As we work toward a national health insurance plan, we support reform of the current employer-based insurance system, as long as it provides universal access to care. This is why we support the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).

How many residents are uninsured? In the US population of 305 million people, 46 million (15%) are uninsured. Among Indiana’s population of 6.35 million, 864,000 (13.6%) are uninsured including 134,000 children. Tippecanoe County has a population of 172,780 of which 26,000 (15%) are uninsured.

Riggs Community Health Clinic in Lafayette serves 12,000 individuals per year. 6,000 of these are children. Riggs expects to double the number served in the next 5 years to 24,000 with the addition of the South Street clinic.

Health care issues related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and currently facing Indiana include expansion of Medicaid and development of state health insurance exchanges.

The Supreme Court, in ruling on the ACA, said the states may reject the provision to expand Medicaid to more uninsured residents. A recent report by the Kaiser Family Foundation says expanding Medicaid to cover 20 million more low-income people nationwide will cost \$1 trillion from 2013-2022. States will pay \$76 billion (7.6%). The federal share will be \$953 billion. The writers of the report feel this should be pretty hard for the states to walk away from.

Indiana Medicaid does not cover adults under age 65 unless they have dependent children and their household income is less than 24% of federal poverty level (\$5,800 per year for a family of 4). ACA tried to give states the option of going along with a Medicaid expansion that would cover families with incomes up to 133% of FPL (\$30,657 for a family of 4). ACA would pay 100% of the cost for the first 3 years, then 90% of the cost thereafter.

Currently the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) is \$11,170 income per year for individuals and \$23,000 for a family of 4. If Indiana does not opt to expand Medicaid coverage, families between 24% and 100% of FPL will not get either Medicaid or federal subsidies to buy health insurance under the ACA. This leaves about 290,000 adults who would have qualified for the new coverage, without options.

The ACA also provides for state health insurance exchanges which are sets of state-regulated and standardized health care plans, from which individuals may purchase health insurance eligible for federal subsidies. The ACA asks the states to establish exchanges complying with federal requirements, and offers federal funding to assist the establishment. In states that don’t establish exchanges on a timely basis, the federal government must establish “federally-facilitated exchanges.” Exchanges are supposed to be fully certified and

(Cont’d on page 3)

Note from the President



Greetings to all for the New Year! Certainly last year was exciting from start to finish with the Presidential, State and local elections. We continued working in the community for voter registration and education, increased contacts and partnerships thus allowing larger visibility for LWV in the Greater Lafayette area. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done!

However, as we all know we cannot rest on our laurels. LWVGL needs to take advantage of our increased visibility and forge new partnerships and assist in the increase of citizen access to the polls and participation in voting. This is where League members are skilled and knowledgeable. Look for the article in this issue of the Voter on details of the Local Program Planning Meeting, *January 29*. Save the date and join with others to set the direction of the League for 2013-14. Our Community Events Calendar went through a rough time this year. Help us decide where to take it next year. Your ideas and participation are important to share.

The annual Legislative Breakfast is planned for *February 23*. Read more about the details in the Voter. This year we have seven (7) legislators who represent citizens in Tippecanoe County and it is expected to be a busy legislative session. Hope to see you at the breakfast!

As in the past, identifying leadership for LWVGL is a challenge. At present we do not have a nominating committee to search for these individuals. If you are available to phone, email, or contact in person members who could serve as leaders, please contact me at president@leaguelfayette.org.

If any of you missed voter registration and education events, candidate debates, or the Legislative Coffee, go to the LWVGL website at www.leaguelfayette.org to view the many pictures documenting these activities. While you are there, check out the whole website. Much was accomplished with a lot of fun along the way.

Save the date for the LWVGL Annual Meeting on May 14. The details of the event will be posted on the website. Come be a part of the League in Greater Lafayette.

—Joanne Evers, President

Calendar

- January 29 - LWVGL Program Planning Meeting, 6:00 PM
- February 5 – Finance Drive Envelope Stuffing Party, 6:30 PM
- February 12 – LWVGL Board Meeting, WLPL, 5:30 PM
- February 14 – League Link Lunch, Jane's Deli, Noon
- February 16 – LWVIN Presidents Day
- February 23 – LWVGL Legislative Breakfast
- March 19 – LWVGL Board Meeting, WLPL, 5:30 PM
- March 14 – League Link Lunch, Jane's Deli, Noon
- April 9 – LWVGL Board Meeting, WLPL, 5:30 PM
- April 11 – League Link Lunch, Jane's Deli, Noon
- April 27&28 – LWVIN State Convention, Turkey Run
- May 14 – LWVGL Annual Meeting

2013 Annual LWVGL Legislative Breakfast

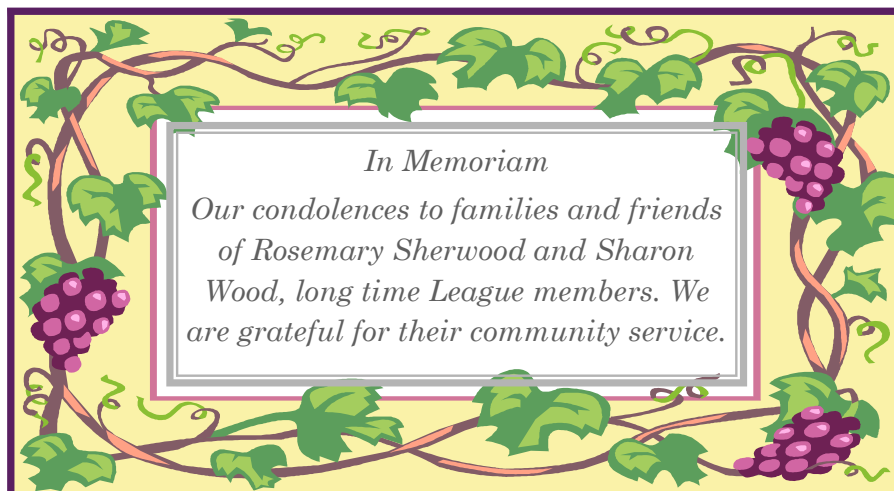
· Open to the Public ·

Q & A with
seven Tippecanoe County
Legislators
Busy 2013 General Assembly

February 23, 2013
MCL Restaurant and Bakery, WL
Continental Breakfast served at
9:15 AM for \$10.00
Program at 10:00 AM

Pay at the door · RSVP for meal
by February 15 to
president@leaguelfayette.org
or 765-336-0935

Come and Bring a Friend!



(Care Act, cont'd from page 1)

operational by January 1, 2014. Indiana has not established a State Health Insurance Exchange.

Contact your representatives in the General Assembly to let them know of your support for the Affordable Care Act and its provisions which help expand insurance to those who are not currently covered. Ask them to take the lead in ways that increase access to quality, affordable health care for all Indiana residents. Many individuals and businesses in Indiana are realizing that having large numbers of people without health insurance is damaging and costly to our state's economy, its business climate, and the health and well-being of its residents.

Become informed! Good information is available at <http://healthreform.kff.org>

—Donna Giroux for the LWV Greater Lafayette

Celebrate the League's 93rd birthday through your financial support.

Founded in 1920, both the national League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette are 93 years old this February. The work of keeping democracy strong has never been more important than it is today.

In celebration of the excellent work being done by the League, we are again conducting a finance drive to generate the funds necessary for continuing the many activities of the local League. The 2012 election was an intense focus last year, and in the coming year, the League will be continuing its efforts of providing information and advocacy on issues of community importance.

Other services include the annual directory of elected officials and the community events calendar. The directory is updated annually and widely distributed. Many in the community rely on it for contact information. In 2012, the community events calendar, which in the past has been printed and sold through participating businesses in the community, was made available online. This new format made it possible to update it periodically, making it even more valuable. While available free, those who availed themselves of it had the opportunity to make a donation to help provide funds for continuation of this effort. Unfortunately, very few people made contributions, greatly diminishing one of the major sources of revenue for our League.

When you receive a fund-raising letter from the League in February, please give careful consideration to your financial support of the League and the League's tax-deductible Education Fund.

—Betty Doversberger, Finance Coordinator

Volunteers Needed for Finance Drive!

An 'Envelope Stuffing Party' at Betty Doversberger's home, 3909 N Orchard Court, Lafayette, February 5 starting at 6:30 PM; includes great fun, good company and super snacks. (really, super snacks)

RSVP to Betty at 448-6880 or secretary@leaguelafayette.org so we have enough snacks. 😊

You've Been Sharing the Secret!

Did you hear about the League?



In the last edition of the VOTER it was suggested that one of the Best Kept Secrets in Greater Lafayette was membership in LWVGL and we were challenged to not keep it a secret any more. Some of you took that seriously and invited friends, neighbors, relatives to attend a meeting, help with Voters Service, Observe a Public Meeting and The Result?? Three new members since September and three more people very interested and indicated "The check is in the mail." You did GOOD! Keep doing it and remember Program Planning (January 29) is an opportunity to see LWV in action. Come and invite someone with you to learn about us; plus there will be delicious soup! Actually, it is a "Random Act of Kindness" to introduce someone to the process of forming good public policy!

Finally, a note received after the December Legislative Coffee will "Make Your Day!" It read in part, "Thanks for welcoming and inviting me...I am not aware of a lot of issues that we face today. This is the reason I want to join to become more aware of the issues that will impact women voters and the community." Now, didn't that perk you up? Go call someone and invite them to League Link Lunch at Jane's Deli the 2nd Thursday of the month at noon or to Program Planning or to Observe a public meeting with you. Perhaps a cup of coffee or tea in your home with a board member will acquaint and introduce LWV to that person. Let us know how we can help!!

—Ginny Webb

Legislative Coffee Big Success!



Thanks to Cathy Potter and her team including Karen Griggs, Liz Solberg, JoAnn Mullen, and Debby Sherman for planning a successful evening with good food, good cheer, and great conversation. Patsy Hoyer shared her festive and comfortable home again with the League and the legislators for an interesting and animated discussion of the issues. The four legislators in attendance included

Ron Alting, Shelia Klinker, Tim Brown, and Randy Truitt. The legislators who sent their regrets included Brandt Hershman, Sharon Negele, and Don Lehe.

Thanks to all the League members who attended, asked important questions and shared passionate comments. In addition to the Q&A, Donna Giroux shared the Leagues Health Care position with all in attendance and Joanne Evers shared the newly adopted LWVUS position on the Federal Government's Role in Public Education.

—Joanne Evers



Fall 2012 Voter Service and Education

As LWV celebrates its 93rd year in February thanks goes to all of the League members in Greater Lafayette and across the country for the outstanding work completed this fall to engage voters in the National, State and Local elections.

Our Voter Service chair, Sherry McLauchlan, organized voter registration and education events including the program, 'Voting: the Why and How of It', at the TCPL. Voter registration was completed at the Purdue and Ivy Tech campuses; downtown Lafayette at the City Bus Depot, Mosey Down Main Street, West Lafayette Farmer's Market, and other locations. LWVGL and WALLA co-sponsored the debate for the state legislators' races and LWVGL, WBAA and Greater Lafayette Commerce co-sponsored a debate for the Congressional District 4 candidates.

Efforts were made to inform the public of the election and its importance as well as provide information on local candidates. Sherry McLauchlan and Bill Evers worked with the local candidates to post information about themselves and their candidacy on VOTE411, the national League database about all information related to voting and elections. The local candidates

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DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

If you are enjoying the hard work which went into the LWV Calendar, the planning, the gathering of the data, the expertise in getting it online plus the timely updates, then you just might want to reward that effort with a check and mail to: LWV Greater Lafayette, P.O. Box 2085, West Lafayette, IN 47996-2085.

Ongoing support is always needed beyond our dues. Contributions to LWVGL are not tax deductible but donations to LWV Indiana Education Fund are deductible. Please make tax deductible checks payable to LWVIEF and note "for LWV Greater Lafayette" in the memo line. Send to the address listed above.

Be a Volunteer for the 2013 Legislative Breakfast!

Contact Joanne at president@leaguemlafayette.org. Needed are greeters, timers, question sorters, and more.

You know the drill. How can you help?

THE LEAGUE IN 2013

What will the New Year bring for LWVGL?
Come and Decide!!

Come join your League friends on Tuesday January 29 for a mid-winter supper and planning for our new year. We will enjoy soup and bread at Cathy Potter's home beginning at 6PM. Discussion and planning will be from 6:30 – 8PM. Cathy lives at 817 North Chauncey Avenue in West Lafayette and parking is available on the street. Call her at 743-9804 if you need directions.

Rather than reviewing local and state positions and deciding to retain, restudy or delete, we will focus this year on our League's place in the community. We will ask ourselves what we want to do to promote citizen participation in democracy in Tippecanoe County. Are our candidate forums effective? Do we want to again print and sell our community events calendars? Do we want to build a presence in the public schools?

At present there is no nominating committee and no carry over leadership from the current board to a new board. We have had great community exposure this year with our many voter service activities. Did you see our signs on the buses? Did you help at one of the many voter registration events or serve as a poll observer on Election Day? Let's decide together what's in store for LWVGL next year.

Please come prepared to discuss

- The League's unique role in the community
- What we want to accomplish in the new year
- What leadership model will enable us to meet our goals

Consider what a good time this is to introduce a friend to the league. Let her or him participate in the discussion. We will surely benefit from fresh eyes looking at our organization.

We do not anticipate any proposals locally or at the state level to study new issues or revise current positions. You can review the current positions of the LWV Greater Lafayette and LWV Indiana on our websites, <http://leaguelfayette.org> and www.lwvin.org.

—Donna Giroux

STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR LWV MEMBERSHIP

A few of you have not renewed your Membership for 2012-13. EACH ONE of you COUNTS not just in the voting booth but in LWV as well. Do take a minute to write that check and mail it in to LWV Greater 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. Contact LWVGL at membership@leaguelfayette.org for information.

MANY THANKS FROM THE
MEMBERSHIP TEAM!

*The LWVGL 2012-2013
Community Events Calendar
can be located at
www.leaguelfayette.org.
Review and/or print it.*

Donations Welcome!

(Voter Service, cont'd from page 4)



were responsive and local voters found VOTE411 easy to use and informative. Information cards with election resources were provided at voter registration locations and ads were placed on the backs of four City Busses which travelled around Lafayette and West Lafayette encouraging people to register and vote.

LWVGL provided five poll observers to learn about how voting is carried out at the polls on Election Day. A report is being prepared of these observations.

Once again, THANK YOU, to all who participated in the many activities this fall to inform and educate voters on the voting process in Tippecanoe County.

Legislative Action Network

Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator



The first session of the 116th Indiana General Assembly convened, January 7th at 1:30p.m.

The LWVIN Board of Directors identified Education Issues, particularly mandatory full day kindergarten, Reproductive Rights and Election Law as priorities for the upcoming session. Other topics may be added as the session progresses.

2013 Legislative Leadership Update

Senate: President Pro Tempore, David Long; Asst. President Pro Tempore, Sue Landske

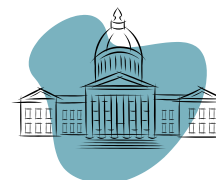
Minority Leader, Timothy Lanane; Asst. Minority Leader, Jean Breaux

Minority Caucus Chair, Jim Arnold

House: Speaker of the House, Brian C. Bosma; Majority Floor Leader, William Friend

Majority Caucus Chair, Kathy Kreag Richardson; Minority Leader, Scott Pelath

Minority Floor Leader; Linda Lawson; Minority Caucus Chair, Vanessa Summers



Deadlines for action on bills in the House and Senate.

Action	Deadline - HOUSE	Action	Deadline - SENATE
01/14/2013	Bill introduction (Rule 108.1)	01/11/2013	Filing for introduction (Rule 45a)
02/25/2013	3rd Reading - House Bills (Rule 147.1)	02/20/2013	3rd Reading - Senate Bills (Rule 76a)
04/15/2013	3rd Reading - Senate Bills (Rule 148.1)	04/10/2013	3rd Reading - House Bills (Rule 76b)
04/15/2013	Conference Committee Reports (Rule 160.1)	04/10/2013	Conference Committee Reports (Rule 83i)
04/29/2013	House Adjourned for Session	04/29/2013	Senate Adjourned for Session
04/29/2013	Adjourn Sine Die	04/29/2013	Adjourn Sine Die

Whenever a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, that deadline date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Link to General Assembly web page:

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/index.htm>

Scroll through items on the left side of the page to find your area of interest.

All LWVGL members will receive weekly updates of the Legislative Action Network.

► The Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) is planning a "**Women's Day at the Statehouse**" **Wednesday, February 6, 2013**. ICW held "listening sessions" all over the state to find out what the top issues were for all women in Indiana. We found that 5 top issues came out of every session: Health Related, Work Based, Leadership, Care Giving and Violence Against Women. We held a video conference follow-up meeting that included several areas of the state. We now need to move forward to come up with realistic solutions to these issues. We are inviting all women to come and take part in the discussion. There will be speakers who will facilitate the discussion for each issue and give details of bills that deal with these issues. We need your help and participation. **Please RSVP to Kristin Garvey, Executive Director 317-232-6720 or info@icw.in.gov** so we know who is coming and will have enough materials for everyone. ◀