



ANNUAL REPORT OF LWV SOUTH BEND AREA Annual Business Meeting June 6, 2017

Board Development

In response to the ongoing challenge of identifying a candidate for the office of president, the Board has created an alternative officer structure. This change is the result of discussions and consideration by the Board spanning the last three years.

Going forward, boards may choose to organize themselves as either a President, a First and Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer or Director of Voter Services and Education, Director of Voter Registration, and Director of Administration, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. When the officer structure includes a President, the President continues to possess traditional powers of supervision and management. When the officer structure includes the three named Directors, those directors will oversee specific committees. The President or the Director of Voter Services and Education will serve as League spokesperson, and these officers will be prohibited from publicly supporting a candidate or party. In each structure, the Board develops and assigns specific responsibilities for all officers, directors, and committee chairs.

Development of the new structure requires amendment of the Bylaws, and proposed amended Bylaws will be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting. The Board Operations Manual, including the Nonpartisan Policy and other policies have also been updated. The Committee List for the coming year is published with the Slate of Officers and Directors.

Membership

81 Memberships at 1-31-2017 (this number determines payments to LWVUS and LWVIN)
105 Memberships noted “active” with LWVUS as of 6-4-17
96 Memberships with current dues payments as of 6-4-17 (number used to determine quorum today)

Candidate Events

Cosponsored with American Democracy Project and Political Science Club of IU South Bend:

Fall 2016

- St. Joseph County Offices Candidate Forum – September 28, 2016 – Attendance: 67
Roger Mathia, Jr. (D), Mark Telloyan (R), Mark Catanzarite (D), John Henry (R), Joe Carbone (D), Dave Thomas (D), Richard Ziegler, Sr. (R), Phil Dotson (D), Deb Fleming (R), Steve Tillman (L), Jon Hanley (R), Michael McGann (D), Mike Castellon (R), Mary Beth Wisniewski (D), John Broden (D)
- South Bend Community School Corporation School Board Candidate Forum – October 10, 2016 – Attendance: 55
John Anella, Jasmine Brown, Cory Gathright, David James, Annette Malone, Jeannette McCullough, Karl Nichols, Maritza Robles, Scott Siler, Leslie Wesley
- Indiana Congressional District 2 Debate – October 11, 2016 – Attendance: 50
Candidates: Ron Cenkush (L), Lynn Coleman (D)

- Indiana House Debates – October 12, 2016 – Attendance: 55
Justin Chupp (R), Joe Taylor (D), James Gillen (L), Ryan Dvorak (D), Dick Pfeil (R), Jodi Buoscio (D), Ethan Legg (L), Tim Wesco (R)
- Indiana Senate Debates – October 19, 2016 – Attendance: 21
Mike Bohacek (R), Maxine Spenner (D), Gerard Arthus (R), David Niezgodski (D)

Volunteers: Elizabeth Bennion, with assistance from her ADP intern, organizes these events. The League staffs an information table and participates in the events with tasks such as the organization and screening of audience questions.

Vote411 Voter Guide

The League launched its first online voter guide using the Vote411.org platform for both the 2016 Primary and General Elections, partnering with the American Democracy Project and the *South Bend Tribune*. The voter guide posed questions to all candidates (38 in the primary) in 20 separate races. Candidate response rate for the primary was a successful 81.57%, especially considering the number of uncontested races. In the General Election, the response rate was 92% (46 of 50) for all races; 98% (42 of 43) of candidates in contested races, and 57% (4 of 7) of candidates in uncontested races.

Committee: Elizabeth Bennion and Geri Pawelski coordinated this initiative in 2016.

Voter Registration

Since 2012 the League has registered 4,558 new voters. Between June 2016 and May 2017, the League registered 670 new voters at 31 separate voter registration events. Additional highlights below

School Voter Registration Program

The League continued to build this successful program, making 15 school visits and registering 329 new voters from June 2016 through May 2017. Schools visited included Adams, Clay, Riley, Washington, South Bend Career Academy, The Excel Center, and Ivy Tech.

The League participated in National Voter Registration Day on September 27, 2016, with an all-senior event at Clay High School. Speakers included South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, County Commissioner, Andrew Kostielney, and South Bend City Clerk Kareemah Fowler.

In addition, we celebrated the anniversary of the 26th Amendment on March 23, 2017, with an all-senior event at Washington High School. Speakers included South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, County Commissioner Andrew Kostielney, and South Bend Common Council Member Regina Preston.

Naturalization Ceremony Voter Registration Program

From June 2016 through May 2017, the League registered 328 new voters at 10 ceremonies, including 47 new voters at a special naturalization ceremony held at the University of Notre Dame on April 18, 2017. Ceremonies were not held in August and September 2016, due to courtroom renovations.

Community Voter Registration Events

At these community events, the League registered 13 new voters, and provided information on public policy issues, with an emphasis on Redistricting Reform. These events also provide opportunities for organizational networking and for community members to learn more about the work of the League.

- All-IN Block Party, July 16, 2016, The History Museum (Indiana bicentennial celebration).
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church, August 20, 2016, Community Lunch event.
- Kroc Center, September 8, 2016, Mayor's Forum on Police and the Community.
- All-Access South Bend event, September 10, 2016, LangLab.

- South East Neighborhood Event, October 1, 2016.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16, 2017, Century Center.

Voter Registration Volunteers

Co-chairs: Nancy Johnson and Susan Fischbach

Elizabeth Bennion	JoAnn Gabrich	Jenny Peterson
Marzy Bauer	Marti Heline	Kathy Platt
Barbara Black-Fredman	Penny Hughes	Lisa Plencner
Judy Bradford	JoAnn Lowry	Deb Ray
Barb Carmichael	Ronnie Malone	Terri Russ
Lois Clark	Mary Malone	Diane Schmitz
Pam Chipman	Anne Montgomery	Melanie Smith-Guillaume
Nimbilasha Cushing	Sheila Niezgodski	Kimber Sorenson-Brugh
Aladean DeRose	Patricia Parker-Davis	Jill Tulchinsky
Gwen Foose	Geri Pawelski	Pam Wycliff

Lunch with the League

Now in its 10th year, the League’s monthly speaker series is as popular as ever. Lunch with the League committee members schedule interesting, well-informed speakers each month on a variety of topics that affect each of our lives. These topics and speakers were featured on the 2nd Friday of each month at South Bend Chocolate Café:

June 2016	100 Black Men	Alfred J. Guillaume, Jr.
July 2016	LGBTQ Center	Eli Williams
August 2016	Gun Violence	Stephen Miller
September 2016	Don Wycliff	Elections and the Media
November 2016	Veteran’s Day	No Lunch with the League
October 2016	Americann Democracy	Michael Coppedge
December 2016	Aladean DeRose, Ann Montgomery	High-Stakes Testing in Indiana
January 2017	Jeff Rea	South Bend Regional Chamber
February 2017	Nanci Coiro	Goodwill Industries
March 2017	Sam Centellas	LaCasa de Amistad
April 2017	Chief Scott Ruzzkowski	South Bend PD Community Policing
May 2017	Lisa Harris	Lake Michigan Region Environment

Committee: Pam Wycliff, Chair; Melanie Smith-Guillaume, Kathy Platt

Citizen’s Guide to Representative Government

The *2017 Guide* was updated after the 2016 election and 4000 copies were delivered in early March. The *Guide* is distributed at libraries, many organizations, and public offices in the County and at all League events. *Guide* sponsorships now fully support the *Guide* and provide significant support to other League programs.

Committee: Judy Bradford, Chair; Elizabeth Bennion, Kathi Bondi, Lisa Harris, Marti Heline, Glenda Rae Hernandez, Nancy Johnson, Sheila Niezgodski, Geri Pawelski, Lisa Plencner, Lisa Scroggins, Pam Wycliff

Positions Studies

Local, State, and National League public policy positions form the basis of League advocacy work, and their development – from the local level – makes the League a true grassroots organization. South Bend Area participated in one position study in 2016-2017.

LWV Indiana Education Study. South Bend Area participated in this study, which focused on high-stakes testing in Indiana. Aladean DeRose and Anne Montgomery, who served on the LWV Indiana Education Study Committee, moderated our local discussion January 10 at Polito’s restaurant and later compiled responses to the consensus questions.

Redistricting Reform Education and Advocacy

Continuing its work in support of redistricting reform in Indiana, South Bend Area worked to educate the public and advocate for reform during summer and fall months and later lobbied in support of HB 1014, which would have established an independent redistricting commission. Activities included

- Staffed an information table at All-IN Block Party on July 16, 2016, where constituents could prepare letters to their elected officials and the interim study committee.
- Distributed informational brochure at all League events.
- Circulated a petition in support of redistricting reform.
- Issued legislation-related action alerts.

Celebration of Women’s Equality Day

The League celebrated Women’s Equality Day on August 26, 2016, with partners The Links, Inc., Michiana Women Leaders Project, Civil Rights Heritage Center, YWCA of North Central Indiana, First Unitarian Church of South Bend, Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana, and Community Forum for Economic Justice. The event honored 12 area women with an exhibit of photographs and narratives. An estimated 170 people attended the event. Honorees were Alta Chrapliwy, Charlotte Pfeifer, Cristal Brisco, Eli Williams, Ellyn Stecker, Evie Kirkwood, Helen Arnold, Kathy Schneider, Linda Baechle, Loraine Celis, Marguerite Taylor, and Ruth Tulchinsky.

League Committee: Terri Russ, Amanda Ceravolo, Jill Tulchinsky, Kathy Platt, Geri Pawelski

Friend-Raiser and Making Democracy Work Award

The well-attended 2016 Friend-Raiser was held October 26 at First Unitarian Church of South Bend. The Making Democracy Work Award was presented to County Council Member Diana Hess, who is a League member. Through the silent auction and donations, the event raised substantial funds to help support League programs.

Committee: Event Chair – Jill Tulchinsky, Refreshment Chair – Nancy Johnson, Silent Auction Chair – Sheila Niezgodski. Several volunteers helped with invitations, set up, and donated food, beverages and auction items.

Maud Wood Park Award

The 2016 Maud Wood Park Award was presented to Nancy Johnson. The award recognizes significant contributions to the growth and strength of the League or to the advancement of civic engagement in our community. Previous honorees are Elizabeth Bennion (2015), Glenda Rae Hernandez (2014), and Lisa Plencner (2013).

Additional League Gatherings and Events

- **Annual Business Meeting** – June 8, 2016, at Papa Vino’s.
- **Holiday Dinner** – December 14, 2016, at Papa Vino’s. Guest speaker was Eli Williams of The LGBTQ Center, to which League members made donations.
- **New Member Discussions** – July 13, 2016; January 17, 2017; and April 20, 2017. St. Joseph County Public Library.
- **Voter Registration Trainings** – February 28 and March 20, 2017.
- **Hosted LWV Indiana Convention April 29-30**, Holiday Inn Mishawaka Conference Center

Web-Site and Social Media

Geri Pawelski maintained the League’s website. Lisa Plencner and Geri Pawelski kept the League visible on Facebook and Twitter @LWVSouthBend.

Community Outreach and Support

- All-IN Block Party at The History Museum (with tables for voter registration, civic education, and redistricting reform).
- Little Taste of Peace – Cosponsored event and donated (\$25).
- Friends of the St. Joe River – Organizational membership (\$100).
- Michiana Monologues – Supported by purchase of program ad (\$250).
- Martin Luther King Day – Purchased table space (\$40).
- YWCA’s Stand Against Racism – Participated with table and talk on gerrymandering by race.

Grants, Donations, Fundraising

- \$2,850 – Citizen’s Guide Sponsorships.
- \$ 800 – LWVUS Grant for New Citizen Voter Registration (through November 30, 2016).
- \$ 800 – LWVUS Grant for Youth Voter Registration (through June 30, 2016).
- \$1,600 – LWVUS Grant for New Citizen Voter Registration (through December 1, 2017).
- \$1,448 – Friend-Raiser Net Proceeds.
- \$ 300 – LWV Indiana Grant (A request is pending for a grant to help fund three projects: 2017 Celebrating Michiana Women Leaders event, purchase a tabletop banner for Lunch with the League, and help fund website).