

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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2007-2008**

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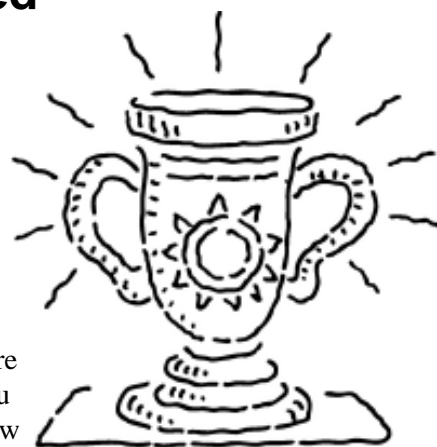
First annual "Making Democracy Work" Award to be presented

On Constitution Day, September 17, our League will present the first annual Making Democracy Work Award, recognizing a woman age 50-65 that has envisioned a way to improve our community and has mobilized others to help effect a change that has benefited the broader community.

LWVGL hopes to get nominations from throughout our area. We know there are many deserving women; we hope you will help by nominating someone you know and respect, and encouraging others to do so.

If you can suggest a group or organization that should receive information about this award, please send your suggestion to Jean Andres.

Nomination forms will be available in May and all nominations will be due by mid-July.



Save the date!

LWVGL Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Klondike Branch, Tippecanoe County Public Library
3062 Lindberg Road, West Lafayette

Time: TBA

Speaker: Gail Pebworth, LWVIN Board Member

Enjoy fellowship, get inspired, and help make crucial decisions. As always, the League depends on its members and needs your advice and counsel.

Learn about election issues through WALLA courses.

Sign up now! Read more on page 2 →

2008 State Council Meeting

The 2008 State Council meeting will be hosted by the Muncie Delaware County League at the Pittinger Student Center, Ball State University on April 25-26. Housing will be at the Student Center, and ranges in price from \$55 to \$65 per person, depending on single or double occupancy. Registration is \$50 on or before April 11 and \$55 after that date.

Events include a reception at Gallagher Manor with a visit by "Eleanor Roosevelt," perceptions of the 2008 General Assembly session from Senator Sue Errington, speakers about the vote center concept and poll worker training, sessions on Indiana's natural resources and renewable energy, and plenary sessions for League business, including the budget and elections.

Several people have already expressed an interest in attending. If you would like to go the Council meeting, please contact Betty Doversberger. We will arrange carpools for those who are attending.



In Memoriam

**Pat Northacker
1924-2008**

Pat Northacker, a more than forty year member of our League, died on February 15. She had been a LWV board member, and was also active in the YWCA, Trinity United Methodist Church, Girl Scouts and the GOP...among many other volunteer activities. Pat received a "Sagamore of the Wabash" from Gov. Otis Bowen for her community service.

Learn about election issues through WALLA course

In March, the League is offering a four-session, two-week course on election issues through WALLA. The course will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks at the Morton Community Center in West Lafayette from 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM.

The election in November is expected to draw a large turnout of voters. It is important that voters be well informed about our voting process for this and future elections. This course will deal with some of the issues that may help or hinder the voting process. The topics to be covered are:

March 18 *The Electoral College: Why Do We have It and Do We Still Need It?* **William McLauchlan**, associate professor of political science at Purdue, will speak about the history of the electoral college and current ideas about its relevance and its future.

March 20 *The Potential for Voter Fraud and the Need for Voter Ids.* **Heather Maddox and Linda Phillips**, Tippecanoe County Election Board members, will speak on the Indiana Voter ID Law and its impact on elections. The Indiana Voter ID Law is recognized as the most restrictive in the nation. In January, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case brought by the Democratic Party and supported by the League of Women Voters.

March 25 *Reliability of Voting Machines: Are the Machines of Tippecanoe County Adequate?* **Clifton Bingham**, associate professor of computer science at Purdue, will speak about the reliability of various types of voting systems, with emphasis on the machines being used in Tippecanoe County.

March 27 *Poll Workers: How Their Jobs Have Changed and How They Are Trained.* **Heather Maddox and Linda Phillips**, Tippecanoe County Election Board members and **Joanne Evers**, president of the League of Women Voters in Indiana and a poll worker, will speak about the important roll played by poll workers and changes resulting from the change to vote centers.

A \$60 fee enrollment fee, payable to WALLA, allows you to register for up to 11 classes during the semester. Registration deadline is March 7, but you may register after that date as long as there is room. Contact Mary Gardner as soon as possible at 765-494-5760 or megardner@purdue.edu.

Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot

Monday, March 17, 7:00-9:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Meridian St., West Lafayette

The film, "Freedom to Vote: Protecting the Ballot" will be shown, followed by a panel discussion with **Professor Spafford**, computer security expert, **William McLauchlan**, political scientist, **Y. Pitt**, constitutional historian, **Joe Micon**, State Representative, and **Julia Vaughn**, Common Cause/IN lobbyist.

This program is co-sponsored by the Greater Lafayette Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, the Purdue University College of Liberal Arts, and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

—Free and open to the public—

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

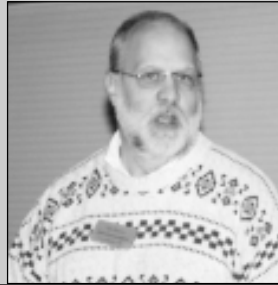
Annual Legislative Breakfast fosters public discussion with elected officials

Approximately 75 people attended the League's Annual Legislative Breakfast on Jan. 26 at MCL Cafeteria. Five state legislators participated in a panel discussion and answered questions on a variety of topics including immigration, tax reform, and health care.

Pictured below, from left-right: **Rep. Tim Brown, Rep. Sheila Klinker, and Sen. Ron Alting.** Also participating were **Rep. Joe Micon and Rep. Brandt Hershman.**



*Thanks to
Herman Spahr
for the photos!*



Reproductive Rights and the 2008 General Assembly

Contrary to popular opinion, the 2008 General Assembly discussed and voted on more than tax policy this short session. Our legislators were quite busy on bills related to reproductive rights.

Several anti-choice bills were introduced and passed the Senate. However, they did not advance in the House. These bills included an effort to protect pharmacists who refuse to fill birth control prescriptions, and also an effort to add biased and misleading information to the government-mandated "script" which must be given to a woman before receiving an abortion.

The **Prevention First** legislation supported by members of HAPA (Health Access and Privacy Alliance), including the LWVIN, received sponsors in the Senate and thus were officially introduced in the legislature for the first time. These bills include birth control protection and a call for medically accurate information in sex education. Even though these bills did not advance, **progress made in the Senate is encouraging and hope is renewed for another year.**

It is important to remember that the state legislators we elect do

matter and directly affect the lives of Indiana women.

An interesting legal but disturbing activity is happening during this legislative process that the League needs to pay close attention to. Part of making a bill a law allows for amendments to be added as bills move from one chamber to another. In most cases these amendments are expected to make the bill stronger or attach an item that was overlooked and germane to the intention of the bill.

However, during this session it has become **common practice for some legislators who did not get their anti-choice bills passed to offer up these bills as an amendments on unrelated bills.** For example, a bill that would close abortion clinics by increasing physical plant standards was offered as an amendment on eight different bills related to insurance.

Another example is what happened to the Cultural Competency bill, legislation which calls for staff and teachers in public schools to have training in different cultures to better work with the students they service. An amendment was added to

require that fetal development be taught in health education classes. Germane?

Attaching non-germane amendments to a bill of value does one of two things. First, it can kill the bill outright because the original author of the bill does not agree to the amendment and withdraws the bill so that it is not heard. Thus we lose a good bill to sabotage.

Second, the bill could be passed with an amendment that is not related and puts into law a piece of legislation that was not fully discussed and certainly not necessarily known by the general public.

Take time to discuss this with your legislators and ascertain their opinion on how this amendment process can be used productively and how this process can be abused. **Find out how many of these good bills were killed this session because legislators amended bills inappropriately.**

It's not over yet so **go to www.lwvin.org to get the latest updates** from Paulette Vandegriff, the LWVIN Legislative Coordinator.

--Joanne Evers



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**Help spread the word:
 the League website is a great
 source of info!**

The League's web site, at <http://leaguelfayette.org>, is a convenient place to find information on the League and our activities. It includes a calendar of activities, our positions, information on voting, and the Directory of Local Officials. Many people would likely be interested in this information, so please share the link with organizations that would link to it. —Jane Frankenberger



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
 PO Box 2085
 West Lafayette IN 47996-2085

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

Thank you!



- **Mar 17**—"Freedom to Vote," 7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, West Lafayette
- **Mar 18-Mar 27, 2008**—WALLA classes on election issues, 1:15-2:30PM
- **April 25-26**—State Council Meeting, Ball State Univ., Muncie
- **May 13**—Annual Meeting, Tipp Co Public Library/Klondike Branch