



# LWVGL Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette,

Fall 2011

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

## **LWVGL Board of Directors 2011-2012**

### **OFFICERS**

**Joanne Evers**  
President

**K.D. Benson**  
Vice President

**Betty Doversberger**  
Secretary

**Sherry McLaughlan**  
Treasurer

### **DIRECTORS**

**Deb Schwarte**, Publicity  
Coordinator

**Kathy Anthrop-Bowman**,  
Membership

**Kathy Dale**, Director

League of Women Voters  
of Greater Lafayette  
PO Box 2085  
West Lafayette IN 47996  
Phone: 1-765-336-0935

Email: [league@leaguelfayette.org](mailto:league@leaguelfayette.org)  
[www.leaguelfayette.org](http://www.leaguelfayette.org)

'Like' us on Facebook!

StateLWV: [www.lwvin.org](http://www.lwvin.org)

Local League Community Events  
Calendars are available for sale  
from any League member and at  
select retail locations in the Greater  
Lafayette area. Check inside for  
these locations.

## **Members Corner**

As an opening article for the *Voter*, I thought it would be interesting to reflect on our founder, Carrie Lane Chapman Catt. Born in Iowa in 1859, she graduated from Iowa State College (now Iowa State University) and married newspaper editor, Leo Chapman. Her husband died in California soon after marrying Carrie in 1885. In 1890, she married a wealthy engineer, George Catt, allowing her to travel campaigning for women's suffrage.



CARRIE LANE CHAPMAN CATT.

During the early 1900's, Catt became good friends with Susan B. Anthony who selected Catt to succeed her as president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA) from 1900-1904 and 1915-1920. It was after women gained the right to vote, Catt founded the League of Women Voters as a successor to NAWSA.

In 1933, Catt organized the Protest Committee of Non-Jewish Women Against the Persecution of Jews in Germany. She gathered 9000 signatures and sent to Hitler in 1933 forcing pressure on the United States Government to ease immigration laws allowing Jews to more easily settle in America.

So what do we do with this information? Inspire others to join us and hold hands as we continue the work started 91 years ago. We have a legacy and story to be proud of! I ask each of you to share this story with another woman, man or teenager and ask them to join the LWVGL in honor of all the women who have worked so hard to have a seat at the big boy table.

*Loyally, Kathy Anthrop-Bowman, Membership*

## **ID Behind the ID**

**by Karen Kay Leonard, LWVIN President**

The Indiana Voter ID Law is in effect after numerous challenges in the US and State Supreme Courts requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls on Nov. 8. Indiana's voter ID must be issued by the federal or Indiana government and must display a photo, a name reasonably corresponding to that in the poll book, and an expiration date. Granted, since this is the "off year" for elections, fewer voters than usual will be affected by this requirement, but that is no reason to ignore the hurdles one must pass in order to obtain such a document.

*(Cont'd on page 2)*

## Greetings from the Board

The board is delighted to welcome the LWVGL Voter back into publication. Thanks to Marlee Posto, editor, and the many contributors, we expect to have the Voter offered to our members quarterly.

Check out reports on the many events that have occurred this summer and fall and those planned for the upcoming months. 'This is Your Community Brown Bag' lunch is scheduled through May 2012 so check your calendar and join the discussion on interesting topics related to the Greater Lafayette community.

LWVGL Community Events Calendar sales are going on now, so if you do not have your own calendar or need some for the upcoming holidays, get them before we run out.

Recently, Linda Cohen resigned from the board for personal reasons and we are all sorry to see her go. She has offered great ideas and perspectives that have served LWVGL well. Thank you, Linda for your service and commitment to the League.

Best wishes for a relaxing fall and take a friend to VOTE!

—LWVGL Board

## Needed: Eyes, Ears and Minds

Consider this your official invitation. Become a member of our League's Observer Corps: members who agree to attend all the meetings of a governmental board or commission and report what is happening for a year. Currently the Board of Health, Wildcat Creek Solid Waste Management District, Lafayette City Council, and the Tippecanoe County Commissioners meetings have Leaguers in attendance.

That leaves a lot of elected and appointed bodies that are available to be "adopted". What's your passion? Public schools, parks and rec, area planning, libraries, human relations commissions, and many more opportunities are waiting for interested members to become informed and to inform the rest of our League. Each meeting attended is documented with a short form—check the boxes and you're done. Completed reports are submitted—either via e-mail or snail mail—and kept on file.

Our board is informed of any areas of concern that observers report and action can be taken. The response might be posting of the observer's comments on our web site or holding a public meeting on the issue.

A short training is provided for volunteers and a letter is written to the chair of the body introducing the League observer. Come and join us. Be assured, you are needed.

**Contact Jean Andres**  
([andres1003@comcast.net](mailto:andres1003@comcast.net) or 449-7041) for more information or to sign-up.

### Voter service tip:

A member attending the LWVIN Southern Regional Workshop in September, suggested while carving your jack'o lanterns this Halloween, carve one with the word VOTE, place a light in it and sit it on your porch. Help your neighbors remember to vote.

(ID, cont'd from page 1)

The photo ID most commonly shown at Indiana polling places is a driver's license, and the changes in requirements to get a driver's license beginning in 2010 are bound to take some citizens by surprise.

"On January 1, 2010, the BMV introduced new security measures to protect valuable credentials such as driver's licenses and identification cards. First, the BMV will begin issuing **SecureID** driver's licenses or identification cards to those who provide proper documentation of their identity, legal status, Social Security number, and Indiana address. Also, all permanent credentials will be mailed from a secure, government-run location." (<http://www.in.gov/bmv/>) Persons applying for their first Indiana driver's license, permit, or ID card will need to provide all four proofs. Those renewing a currently valid Indiana driver's license, and who do not want the **SecureID**, will need only their old license and the proof of Social Security number.

The attraction of the **SecureID**, of course, is that the granting procedure tries to defeat identify theft. Also, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles notes that, at some future time, the federal government plans to require such an ID for boarding airplanes or entering federal facilities. Two difficulties with the **SecureID** requirements are costs and time lag. Obtaining the **SecureID** requires more money and time than previously were needed to obtain a license, permit or ID card, and one cannot take home the item the same day one applies. The process of checking the evidentiary materials and mailing the final card is expected to take about 10 days. (Temporary cards, valid at the polls, are to be issued for use on Election Day.)

Before going to the BMV, a person applying in 2010 for her first Indiana driver's license (\$21; generally valid for 6 years) should be prepared to spend the time and money to gather:

1. Primary identification – usually a birth certificate (\$15 to \$40, 3 weeks) or U.S. passport (approximately \$75; 4-6 weeks; higher fees to speed the process)
2. Proof of lawful status (if not born in the USA) – A foreign passport (previously obtained) and an I-94 Arrival/Departure form (about \$100 to

(Cont'd on page 3)

*"To insure universal suffrage, the state should appoint an ombudsman or create an alternative photo ID path to assist those in need."*

## This is Your Community

Once a month the LWVGL asks one of our community leaders to speak at a Brown Bag luncheon. League members and the general public have heard from speakers such as Stan Lambert, with the Wabash River Enhancement Corp.; Tetia Lea, Executive Director of the Tippecanoe Arts Federation; Marty Sennett, of City Bus and the Greater Lafayette Public Transportation Commission; Ted Bumbleburg, Director of Lafayette Parks and Recreation; and Barb Clark, Facilitator of the Diversity Roundtable, a subgroup of the Chamber of Commerce. These meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, from noon to 1pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Church on 333 Meridian Street in West Lafayette.

The advantage of these casual lunches is that community members can come together to hear about specific issues of interest in our area from the individuals who are closest to the topic. Each "This is Your Community" luncheon allows the speaker to inform the audience while they enjoy their personal sack lunches, with coffee and tea provided by the League. After the informative presentation, the members of the community can then ask varied questions and interact with the presenter. Future luncheon topics shall involve the Community Cancer Network, Purdue University's Cooperative Extension programs & services, Oakland High School: Lafayette's alternative high school and its programs, and others (See side panel for schedule).

The League is always looking for future speakers and luncheon topics for our community. We desire to keep the public informed in a pleasurable manner. JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND!

—Deb Schwarte

(ID, cont'd from page 2)

download; does not include legal fees)

3. Proof of Social Security number or ineligibility for same – commonly a Social Security card or a W-2 form; 4-6 weeks (free but with requirements).

To get a replacement card, you will need to:

- Complete an Application For A Social Security Card (Form SS-5);
- Present a recently issued document to show your identity;
- Show evidence of your U.S. citizenship if you were born outside the United States and did not show proof of citizenship when you got your card; and
- Show evidence of your current lawful noncitizen status if you are not a U.S. Citizen." (<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10002.html#cost>)

4. Proof of Indiana residence – typically a bill or bank statement sent to one's correct address within the past 60 days, a recent pay stub displaying one's address, a current voter registration card, or a Medicare or Medicaid card (free; 60-day limit on billing postal dates)

"Why all the fuss about voter ID?!" insist some middle-class citizens. "Most people use an ID frequently."

True, but for the numerous people who lack personal transportation or easy access to the evidentiary documents, who have insufficient income to purchase official copies or lack the ability to order them, the hurdles appear high and daunting. **To insure universal suffrage, the state should appoint an ombudsman or create an alternative photo ID path to assist those in need.**

Do remember that driving a car, cashing a check or flying on an airplane is not a constitutional right but voting is and paying for documents to acquire an ID to vote is liken to a poll tax. **Lack of a photo ID at the polls should not prevent a single Hoosier from voting.**

## This is Your Community Series 2011-2012

Third Thursday of the Month, Noon-1PM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 333 Meridian St., West Lafayette (Bring your lunch, beverages provided)

October 20—Diane Damico, Chair of West Lafayette Go Greener Commission

November 17—Melinda Bond, Director of Community Cancer Network

February 16—Jeff Phillips, Purdue Cooperative Extension Educator

March 15—Clare Lutgen, Principal of Oakland Alternative High School, Lafayette

April 19—Bill Hooper, Lafayette Citizen's Band

May 17—Kathryn Redd, Director Tipp Co. Project Safe Neighborhoods Anti-gang Initiative

### Additional Scheduled Event

December 8—Legislative Coffee, 7PM at 3008 Wilshire Ave, West Lafayette. Meet newly elected state legislators to discuss 2012 legislative priorities.

### LWVGL Board Meetings:

*All members are welcome*

Third Monday of the Month 5:30PM, West Lafayette Public Library

The LWVGL Voter is published quarterly. The editor is Marlee Pierce Posto. Please send your articles to [marlee.pierce@gmail.com](mailto:marlee.pierce@gmail.com)

### LWVGL Community Events Calendars for Sale

The 2011-12 Community Events calendar can be purchased for \$8.00 from League members and at the following retail stores in Lafayette and West Lafayette: All CVS stores, Von's Book Store, Interior Objects, Sunspot Natural Market, Hair Encounters, Teacher's Delight, Buy the Book bookstore and St Elizabeth East Hospital gift shops. For more information, call 1-765-336-0935 or email [league@leaguemlafayette.org](mailto:league@leaguemlafayette.org)

# The Picnic

Good food,  
good company,  
and on task



Did you miss the Annual Picnic? Here's a quick review.

Along with the usual great food and conversation, League members heard updates on two positions at this year's Annual Summer Picnic, held on August 27<sup>th</sup> at Happy Hollow Park. Sonya Margerum, past Mayor of West Lafayette, provided insight into the origins of the position on Solid Waste, including sharing the original version. Karen Griggs, observer of the Wildcat Solid Waste Management District Board meetings, presented ideas for the need to re-evaluate the League's position on Solid Waste. Questions to ponder include, what wastes are generated in Tippecanoe County? How much is recycled? She also notes that the political, legal, and economic landscapes have all changed drastically since 1974 when the position was initially adopted.

Domestic Violence was also a topic of discussion. Jasmine Dowd, outreach coordinator of the YWCA Domestic Violence and Prevention Program, spoke about the efforts for prevention taking place in our community. Jasmine's speaks to as many audiences as she can, especially schools, to raise awareness of the issue. Surprising is the number of people who lay a percentage of the blame on the victim for various reasons, which says, 'that sometimes it is ok to hurt or take advantage of someone'. It isn't! As a community, is there more that we could be doing to prevent domestic violence? This discussion was a lead into the review and update of the local League's Domestic Violence position.

Other highlights of the picnic included updates on events, social media, web site news, stories of long-time members now on the website, and of course the LWVGL Community Events calendars, now on sale for the low price of \$8.00. Like LWVGL on Facebook and visit us on the website at [www.leaguelafayette.org](http://www.leaguelafayette.org).

—Kathy Dale

## “Tippecanoe County is a Vote Center County!”

Tippecanoe County offers a more flexible way to vote with Vote Centers. Under a conventional precinct election, you were limited to voting only at your precinct. With Vote Centers, you are able to vote on Election Day at any one of the Vote Center locations. Put simply, there is no "wrong" place to vote!

If you are unable to vote in person on Election Day, you also have the option to vote before Election Day in person at one of the early voting sites. There are several early voting sites available as early as two weeks before an Election. If you are still unable to vote in person, there is still the option to request an absentee ballot by mail.

Voters really like the flexibility of being able to select the most convenient polling place for them that Vote Centers offer. Some voters vote near where they work; other voters choose to vote near their children's schools; still others vote at the Vote Center closest to their grocery store. No matter where they choose to vote, voters are able to vote according to their lifestyle” ([http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/election\\_board/](http://www.tippecanoe.in.gov/election_board/))

Check this website closer to election time for 2011 General Election Vote Center locations



**REMEMBER TO VOTE: Municipal General Election, Nov. 8, 2011**

**Polls are open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm**

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE UNOPPOSED MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES BEING REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT PER PL 225-2011, SEC 47 AND 48? Write your state legislators and share your opinion. Ask how much money will be saved? Ask if no votes are cast for a candidate how can they be elected to office? Ask why candidates for state offices are not affected? Ask why election boards should be given the authority to keep a candidate off the ballot after meeting all the criteria to run for office? Ask these questions and more?