



## League Co-Hosts Mayoral Debates

The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area will co-host mayoral debates and a candidates forum leading up to the November city elections. The Mishawaka mayoral debate will take place October 10th followed by a South Bend Common Council At Large candidate forum on October 20 and the South Bend mayoral debate on October 27. The debates and forum will all take place on the IU South Bend campus.

The League, along with IU South Bend's American Democracy Project, the campus political science club and several neighborhood groups hosted six well attended community forums in the weeks leading up to the May primary. The local League has taken the lead on informing voters through debates and forums thanks, in large part, to League Vice President and IU South Bend Political Science Professor Elizabeth Bennion. Please mark your calendars to attend the fall debates and forum.

**Mishawaka Mayoral Debate**  
**Monday October 10th 6:00-7:30**  
**IU South Bend Wiekamp 1001**

**South Bend Common Council At-Large Candidate Forum**  
**Thursday October 20th 6:00-7:30**  
**IU South Bend Northside Hall 113**

**South Bend Mayoral Debate**  
**Thursday October 27th 6:00-7:30**  
**IU South Bend Student Activities Center rooms 221-225**

## State Convention A Success in South Bend

*League member Kimber Sorenson-Brugh*

Indiana League members gathered in South Bend this spring for the League of Women Voters State Convention. The 2 day event took place May 14th and 15th on the Indiana University South Bend campus. The Convention began with a welcoming address from St. Joseph County Superior Court Judge Jenny Manier followed by a keynote speech on the role of women in American politics from South Bend League Vice President, Dr. Elizabeth Bennion.

*continued on page 2*

## President's Ponderings



As I sit here to write my first "President's Pondering" column I find myself looking back over the last year. It has been a whirlwind! I joined the local League a little over a year ago and found myself immediately embraced by a group of diverse and amazing women and men. I discovered that they were ready, willing and able to help me in any endeavor I came up with to help serve the mission of the League. I was recruited as a board member almost immediately, even unwittingly made the chair of the fund-raising committee! - Lisa should have been a saleswoman!

Now here I am a little more than a year in and I find myself co-president. Certainly not because of anything in particular that I did or didn't do but because I have been supported by so many wonderful and giving people, what an awesome thing - this past year. Who knew that I would find a family of truly altruistic, creative and compassionate people who love this community so much they have given years of their lives to help support, sometimes admonish but always be a visible part of it's political process? To be the voice even for those who are unaware of the League, its mission or the people who make it work, it has been far more than I expected and I have been humbled by it.

Now with my first year as co-president beginning, I am looking forward to seeing how things continue to grow. We have an awesome new team leading the fund raising committee - as co-chairs I am so excited to see what tricks Kathleen Petitjean and Marti Heline and their committee will pull out of their hats! I know whatever it is, it will be awesome and far surpass anything we were able to do the first year. Although I hope that they will continue to carry-on the new tradition of holding button making parties!

I am also looking forward to our project for the year - to get our high school kids registered to vote before they graduate. I just know that we will have great success with this project - it is an exciting, sometimes frustrating time in our country's politics and I have no doubt that in the coming local & national elections we have young people that will really want to get involved. I honestly believe that getting our kids registered before they go off to whatever their lives have to offer them next is key to having them engaged in the political process as they go through life. I could not be prouder of taking on this project and I really look forward to making new friends as we embark on this endeavor together!

Kelly Sanford  
LWVSBA Co-President

*continued from page 1*

Saturday afternoon focused on a series of roundtable discussions and workshops on issues like healthcare as well as fundraising for the league, advocacy, vote centers and the LWVIN's poll worker survey project. State members were also able to meet Pat Vonath, the national liaison with LWVUS. Pat shared her thoughts on non-partisanship and the vote during her keynote address on Sunday.

Although there were plenty of opportunities to socialize, including during Saturday evening's Game Night, League members spent much of their time taking care of important League business including adopting a budget and electing officers and committee members for 2011-13. They include: *President: Karen Kay Leonard (Indianapolis); First Vice-President: Amy Olson (Indianapolis); Treasurer: Lorraine Jensen (Hamilton Co.); Directors: Shanon O'Toole (Knox Co.), Susanne Gaudin (Brown Co.), Linda Shanks (Bloomington-Monroe Co.), Kimber Sorenson-Brugh (South Bend Area); Nominating Committee: Joanne Evers (Greater Lafayette), chair, Lisa Plencner (South Bend Area), Betty Lou Nault (LaPorte Co.).*

A special thanks to all local members who helped plan and coordinate the convention. Nice job everyone!

## Fighting For Clean Air

The League of Women Voters this summer launched a months-long campaign, including a significant national advertising effort, seeking to renew America's promise to protect clean air and public health embodied in the highly successful and popular Clean Air Act. "Americans from all walks of life will be asked to make the 'Clean Air Promise,'" said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the national League of Women Voters. "We are deeply concerned about attacks on EPA and health protections. Any action to block the EPA from updating Clean Air Act protections, or any delay on behalf of the Administration to avoid implementing new clean air and industrial pollution requirements, is an attack on the health of our children and families, plain and simple," she said.

Through the Clean Air Promise campaign, the League of Women Voters hopes to inform and engage Americans on the issue of clean air and to demonstrate what is at stake. Some public officials are trying to undermine the Clean Air Act and to strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its ability to limit air pollution and emission of toxics like mercury, arsenic and other dangerous substances which threaten public health. The League will ask its members to make the promise to protect clean air and will actively work to engage the public and our leaders to make the promise as well. To read more about the Clean Air Campaign visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

## Places to Be ...People to See

### **Lunch with the League - September 9, 11:30 am. South Bend Chocolate Café**

*Speaker: Milt Lee, Executive Director of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana*

### **Save the Date-Hunger Banquet, September 29**

Tickets \$10. Proceeds benefit the Food Bank of Northern Indiana  
*Location: Ivy Tech, South Bend*

### **Save the Date-Wine & Chocolate Fall Friend-Raiser**

**October 6, 6:00 to 8:00 pm**

*Location: Former Spark Stationary Store, Downtown South Bend*

*League members are asked to donate a bottle of wine paired with a chocolate treat of some kind and/or a silent auction item and bring a friend to the event! Have questions? Contact Kathleen Petitjean at [petitk712@gmail.com](mailto:petitk712@gmail.com)*

## Want to Get Involved?

### **Help plan and host candidate and issue forums**

Contact Political Education Chair, Elizabeth Bennion  
[ebennion@iusb.edu](mailto:ebennion@iusb.edu) or 520-4128

### **Help raise money for the League**

Contact Fundraising Co-Chairs Kathleen Petitjean,  
[petitk712@gmail.com](mailto:petitk712@gmail.com) and Marti Heline,  
[mheline@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mheline@sbcglobal.net)

### **Submit story ideas for the newsletter**

Contact Newsletter Chair Amanda Ceravolo  
[aceravolo@ywcancin.org](mailto:aceravolo@ywcancin.org) or 233-9491

Visit us online at

[www.lwvsouthbend.org](http://www.lwvsouthbend.org)