

South Bend Area League Hosts State Convention

South Bend will be the place to be in May when the League of Women Voters, South Bend Area hosts the Indiana State Convention. The event will take place May 14th and 15th on the Indiana University South Bend campus. League members from around the state will gather to discuss important issues in our own communities and around the state. Although it's a chance to engage in serious discussion with fellow leaguers its also a great opportunity to share ideas and have some fun! We hope you'll join us.

Keep an eye on the LWVSBA website for more information, www.lwvsouthbend.org. Interested in helping organize the event? Great! We can use your help. Get in touch with Committee Chair Elizabeth Bennion at ebennion@iusb.edu or 520-4128. For more volunteer opportunities see below.

Citizen's Guide Update Underway

With Election 2010 behind us, League members are busy working on the 2011 edition of the Citizen's Guide. Geri Pawelski is coordinating the update effort, with help from League members and St. Mary's College intern Catherine Cleary.

The Board would like to extend a huge thank you to Jo Ann Lowry, who worked tirelessly for many years to coordinate production of the *Citizen's Guide*. Through Jo Ann's efforts, along with those of many League members who have worked with her, the *Citizen's Guide* is the go-to resource for civic information in St. Joseph County – a publication that enhances the League's visibility and reputation in our community.

As you know, the *Citizen's Guide* traditionally has been funded through League membership dues, with additional support from a few local sponsors. This year, the Fundraising Committee is actively seeking sponsors for the *Guide*, requesting donations in any amount from local organizations and citizens. Sponsorship will be recognized by featuring the sponsor's name:

- in the *Citizen's Guide* Sponsor section,
- on a Sponsor sign displayed at numerous community events, and
- on the LWVSBA website

With expenses rising all the time, we must work together to find additional funding sources for our League initiatives. If you know of an individual or organization that might be interested in becoming a *Guide* sponsor – or would like to make a contribution yourself, please contact Geri Pawelski at gpawelski@comcast.net or 271-0682 to receive a sponsor form. The is also available at www.lwvsouthbend.org.

President's Ponderings



Welcome to 2011!
Congratulations to the League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area for a

successful 2010. Many thanks to the dedication and hard work of our board of directors and entire membership.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to our Vice President, Dr. Elizabeth Bennion. For the duration of my presidency, Elizabeth has taken the lead in all of our candidates' forums. Her expertise has made all of our forums extremely successful and I have no doubt they would have been less so without her. Her efforts won great press for our league, and continue to solidify our name as an important resource for citizen engagement. As another election season nears, keep your eyes peeled for League announcements about upcoming municipal race forums!

This spring, we will have a fantastic opportunity to make 2011 a memorable year for our league. The League of Women Voters of Indiana is coming to South Bend for convention. We have the honor of hosting fellow leaguers from around the state. I'm excited that we will be holding the convention on the IU South Bend campus and offering overnight accommodations in apartment-style dorms. I look forward to our local members having the opportunity to share some fun "retreat time" with each other. C'mon ladies, slumber party! We will be looking for volunteers for every task under the sun. Please think about taking this opportunity to help make this convention successful by volunteering your time and talent. It's a perfect way to re-engage with the league.

It's been my pleasure to serve as President throughout 2010, and I look forward to participating in the many exciting projects we are working on as we move into 2011

~Lisa Plencner, President LWVSBA

Protecting Lake Michigan from Asian Carp

The Lake Michigan League of Women Voters held its annual meeting in Manitowoc, Wisconsin this past Fall. Attending the meeting were LMLWV members and Lake Michigan advocates from the 4-state watershed: Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Dr. Phillip Moy was the keynote speaker and addressed the Asian Carp problem and its potential impact on Lake Michigan. LWVSBA member Jenny Dunville has represented our League at the Lake Michigan League of Women Votes meetings in the past and will continue to keep us updated on issues impacting the Lake.

Find out more about Asian carp by visiting:

www.epa.gov/greatlakes/invasive/asiancarp/

www.asiancarp.org

Want to Get Involved?

Help plan the LWV-IN state convention to be hosted in South Bend this May!

Contact State Convention 2011 Chair Elizabeth Bennion, ebennion@iusb.edu, 520-4128

Help plan and host candidate and issue forums

Contact Political Education Chair, Elizabeth Bennion, ebennion@iusb.edu, 520-4128

Proofread the Citizen's Guide

Contact Guide Chair Geri Pawelski, gpawelski@comcast.net, 271-0682

Help raise money for the League

Contact Fundraising Chair Kelly Sanford, kelsanford@gmail.com, 237-0475

Submit story ideas for the newsletter

Contact Newsletter Chair Amanda Ceravolo at aceravolo@ywcancin.org, 233-9491

Meetings & Events

Lunch with the League – second Friday of each month at The South Bend Chocolate Factory, 122 S. Michigan St at noon.- come as early as 11:30 to get lunch.

Ideas for topics/speakers are always welcome and may be submitted to Lisa at lisa.plencner@comcast.net

February's speaker is Tricia Gorden, Director, Training and Community Resources Area 2 Agency on Aging/REAL Services, Inc.

LWVSBA Board Meetings – fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm in the Pokagon Room - basement of the library in downtown South Bend. Everyone is welcome.

Want to know more about the League of Women Voters South Bend Area?
Visit us online at:

www.lwvsouthbend.org