

The League LATEST

JANUARY 2022
Issue No. 2

The Newsletter of the Porter County League of Women Voters

Happy New Year!

2022 is an election year, which means we will have much to do.

Some of the upcoming local races will be for Porter County Commissioner and Council, 4th District State Representative, and 1st District U.S. Representative seat(s). Which races we will sponsor **Candidate Forums** has yet to be determined. Also, whether we will be able to return to in person debates will depend on what is happening with COVID. More to come as things develop.

Our **Vote411** committee is already preparing to work on the site (www.vote411.org) and we have some ideas on how to continue to build more awareness for this excellent tool for citizens.

Of course, **Voter Registration** will be a big priority in an election year. As things improve with COVID, we hope to expand our Register to Vote locations. We will also be investing in additional marketing materials that will help us be more visible at these events.

Indiana maps may have been drawn, however, Redistricting Reform is not dead. The League of Women Voters of Indiana (LWVIN) and Common Cause are taking a different track this year and pursuing an amendment to the Indiana Constitution to take responsibility for redistricting away from the legislature and put it in the hands of a bipartisan group of citizens, not incumbent politicians. This means that we still need to put pressure on our legislators—so keep an eye out for more opportunities to send postcards and make phone calls.

Finally, Trinity Lutheran Church has opened their space to us for our monthly meetings. It is now a matter of deciding the right time to start meeting in person. Even after we do, we plan to continue making Zoom an option for our members and guests (I think they call that a “hybrid” meeting). We will keep you informed.

Looking forward to another productive year in the fight to save our democracy!

—Beckie Guffin, President



Joyce Hicks, chair of Porter County LWV's Natural Resources Committee, votes during the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region. Learn more about the event on page 2.



Volunteer Opportunities

Want get more involved with the League in this midterm year? We need you! Consider the following opportunities:

Publicity Coordinator

Help get the word out about our meetings and events to the local media. Time commitment: About 1 hour per month.

Candidate Forum Staff

Thank you to Paula Keller and Mary Beth Witcher for volunteering to lead this event!

We welcome any additional members who want to help. Dates (in the fall) are still TBA.

High School Liaison

Help the next generation of voters by connecting with faculty at local high schools to coordinate voter registration drives. We could use more than one person in this role.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities—or have others you'd like to propose—please contact Beckie Guffin.

Inside this issue

LWV Lake Michigan Region
Page 2

Upcoming LWV Meetings
Page 3

New Membership
Page 3

Local Government
Meeting Schedule
Page 3

Elected Official
Contact Info
Page 4

Board Members

Beckie Guffin

President

beckie@barbould.com

219-508-0387

Julia Perkins

Vice President

juliarperkins@gmail.com

Membership Chair

Andrea Tobochnik

Treasurer

andreamoll11@gmail.com

Garage Sale Coordinator

Joyce Hicks

Secretary

joyce.hicks@valpo.edu

Natural Resources Chair

Lynda Krueger

lrkrug@comcast.net

Voter Registration Chair

Pamela Rogalski

rogalskip@comcast.net

Social Media Manager

Barbara Domer

domerb@comcast.net

Redistricting Committee

Heather Grennan Gary

heathergrennan@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

CONNECT WITH US

Website:

lwvporterco.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
LWVporter

Email:

lwvporter@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1153

Valparaiso, IN 46384

Celebrating the Lake

with the League of Women Voters Lake Michigan Region

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Michigan Region (LWVLMR) held its annual conference October 15-16, 2021, at the Spring House Inn in Porter. This was convenient for our chapter, and four members—Barbara Domer, Heather Gary, Joyce Hicks, and Pam Rogalski—attended all or part of the event. Joyce, who chairs the Porter County LWV Natural Resources Committee, was a delegate and voted at the business meeting.

Over 50 local leagues from four states are members of LWVLMR, which focuses on environmental policy and how it pertains to the health and well-being of citizens residing in Lake Michigan watershed states. It operates under the Natural Resources position of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

The conference began with optional field trips. Pam and Heather were part of a group that visited the Portage lakefront with Erin Argyilan, professor of geosciences at Indiana University Northwest. Her presentation included an explanation of how lake levels fluctuate over long geological periods—a fact that often gets overlooked when people talk about shoreline erosion in the context of climate change.

Speakers included Victoria Wittig, senior program specialist of Save the Dunes, who spoke about Lake Michigan pollution and possible solutions, and Joe Gruzalski, an Indiana Dunes National Park ranger. He presented on several “badass” women of the Dunes. He first highlighted Harriet Colfax, moved to Michigan City in 1861 and operated the lighthouse for 43 years (after which she was replaced by three men and electric lights). And Alice Gray, a brilliant free spirit who gained fame—and the nickname “Diana of the Dunes”—after she moved to the Dunes to lead a simple, rustic life at the turn of the 20th century. More recently, Lee Botts was a power-



Heather Gary and Pam Rogalski attended a field trip to the Portage Lakefront during the LWVLMR annual conference.

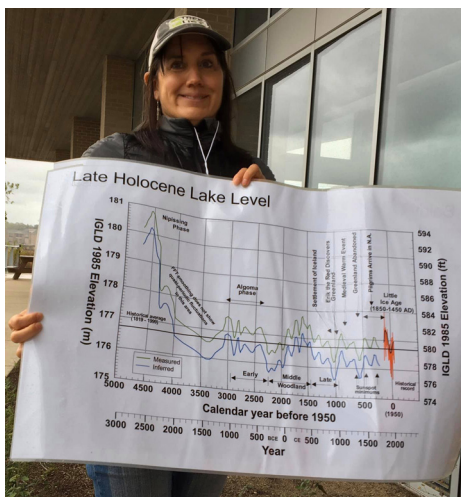
Statement of Purpose

The purposes of the League of Women Voters, as stated in our bylaws, are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

We speak for voters—not a party. Being nonpartisan does not mean nonpolitical. Our work is based on issues, and issues are nonpartisan.

We are committed to doing what we were founded to do—stand up for what’s right and support legislation that advances voting rights.



house champion for Lake Michigan, advocating for the Indiana Dunes to become a national park.

This conference drew attendees from as far away as northern Michigan and Wisconsin, and reminded local participants of not only the value of the lake as a whole, but of the special significance of Porter County's shoreline.

Erin Argyilan, professor of geosciences at Indiana University Northwest, explains lake levels over time at the LWVLMR field trip.

New Membership

Michael Mirochna, Valparaiso

Welcome!

Do you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member? Invite them to join us at the next meeting!

Upcoming Meetings

Join us on the third Monday of every month, from 7:00-8:15 p.m.

February 21

March 21

April 18

Monthly Membership Meetings will be held on Zoom until further notice.

Meeting ID: 832 2718 8002
Passcode: lwpvc

Check our website for updates about when we will meet in person again! We'll be at Trinity Lutheran Church, 201 Washington St., Valpo, in the fellowship hall. (We'll also continue to be on Zoom.)

Committee News

Check out the list of our chapter's committees—perhaps you're interested in joining one (or more)? Details are at lwvporterco.org, under the Committees tab.

Fundraising

Candidate Forum

Gun Sense

Natural Resources

Observer Corps

Redistricting

Vote411

Voter Services

LWV-IN Advocates

Local Government Meeting Schedule

Porter County Council

October 25, 5:30-8:30

October 26, 5:30-8:30

Porter County Commissioners

November 2, 10 a.m.-noon

December 14, 10 a.m.-noon

Council and Commissioner meetings are at the County Administration Building, 155 Indiana Ave., Suite 205, Valpo.

Valparaiso City Council

Second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

*City Hall—Council Chambers
166 W Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383*

Portage City Council

First Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

*Woodland Park
2100 Willowcreek
Portage IN 46368*

Chesterton Town Council

Second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*Town Hall
726 Broadway
Chesterton, IN 46304*

Porter Town Council

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

*Porter Town Hall
303 Franklin
Porter, IN 46304*

Fundraising Corner

Support the League while you shop at Amazon—go to smile.amazon.com, click on Your Account, and then "Change Your Charity." Type *League of Women Voters of Porter County* in the Search bar and select it as your charity. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to our organization, and we'll use it to strengthen democracy.

Porter County Elected Official Contact Information

FEDERAL

US Senate

Mike Braun

Washington: 202-224-4814
Indianapolis: 317-822-8240
www.braun.senate.gov

Todd Young

Washington: 202-224-5623
Indianapolis: 317-226-6700
www.young.senate.gov

US House of Representatives

Frank J. Mrvan

(1st Congressional District)
Washington: (202) 225-2461
Merrillville: (219) 795-1844
mrvan.house.gov

STATE

Governor

Eric Holcomb

317-232-4567
www.in.gov/gov/
Address: Office of the Governor,
Statehouse, Indianapolis, IN 46204-
2797

State Senate

District 4
(Porter County North)

Rodney Pol

800-382-9467
317-232-9404
Email: s4@iga.in.gov
www.indianasenatedemocrats.org/s4/

District 5
(Porter County South)

Ed Charbonneau

800-382-9467
Senator.Charbonneau@iga.in.gov
www.indianasenaterepublicans.com/charbonneau

State Representatives

House District 4
(Union, Center, and Washington townships and parts of Liberty and Jackson townships)

Ed Soliday

800-382-9841
www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/leadership/ed-soliday

House District 9
(Parts of Porter County East)

Pat Boy

800-382-9842
<https://indianahousedemocrats.org/members/pat-boy>

House District 10
(Porter County North & NW)

Chuck Moseley

800-382-9842
indianahousedemocrats.org/members/chuck-moseley

House District 11
(Porter County South)

Michael Aylesworth

800-382-9841
www.indianahouserepublicans.com/members/general/michael-aylesworth/

COUNTY

Porter County Commissioners

Laura Shurr Blaney

District 1 (South)
(219) 465-3349
laura.blaney@porterco.org

Jeff Good

District 2 (Center)
(219) 465-3354
jgood@porterco.org

Jim Biggs

District 3 (North)
(219) 465-3361
jim.biggs@porterco.org

Porter County Council

District 1: **Bob Poparad**

District 2: **Jeremy Rivas** (President)

District 3: **Greg Simms**

District 4: **Mike Jessen**

At Large: **Sylvia Graham**

At Large: **Andy Bozak**

At Large: **Mike Brickner**

Email for all County Council members: council@porterco.org

More Info: www.porterco.org/1374/Your-Council-Members

LOCAL

Visit www.in.gov/core/mylocal/porter_county.html for the contact info of the following local government bodies:

Cities & Towns

Burns Harbor	Kouts
Chesterton	Portage
Dune Acres	Porter
Hebron	Valparaiso

Porter County Townships

Boone	Pleasant
Center	Portage
Jackson	Porter
Liberty	Union
Morgan	Washington
Pine	Westchester

? Which district you live in?
Find out at iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/

Information on this list is current as of January 27, 2022.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PORTER COUNTY