

League of Women Voters

*"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction.
Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality."*

~Alice Paul, 1920

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall, 2009

Federal, State, Local Leaders Discuss ARRA at Lunch with the League



Federal, state, and local leaders will "Lunch with the League" over the next few months to explain how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 impacts you and your family.



The Act is an economic stimulus package enacted by Congress in February. It includes, among other things, federal tax cuts, expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions, and domestic spending in education, health care, and infrastructure, including the energy sector.



The Lunch with the League series on ARRA is designed to help inform the community about the Act's impact at the federal, state, and local levels.



Lunch with the League

October 9

Rep. Joe Donnelly

November 13

In. Senators

John Broden & Joe Zakas*

December 11

Mayors Steve Luecke & Jeff Rea

*At the time of this writing Senator Joe Zakas had not yet confirmed his availability.

Lunch with the League takes place at the Chocolate Café in Downtown South Bend. The speaker will begin at noon but feel free to come as early as 11:30 to enjoy lunch.

President's Corner



I am so excited to be writing an entry for the "President's Corner" in the first issue of our newly revived newsletter.

We have discussed the dream of having a newsletter to connect and inform our membership for at least a year so, many thanks to Amanda, Barb, and Kim for all of their hard work in making this dream a reality.

In fact, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for being a part of the League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area. I am proud to say that in the past year our small group of dedicated members has done an astonishing amount to educate and inform the voting public. We have made a difference and people tell me so all the time.

It is now my goal to involve every member who wants to participate in a way that is meaningful to her. As I often say, this is not my League, it is our League. I am hoping that this newsletter will help us communicate better and by knowing what we've been doing, you will be able to see how you can help. Please contact me with your ideas and interests and we will do our very best to work on issues we all believe in.

Thank you for your time, and thank you for your commitment to our League.

~Lisa Plencner
President, LWV/SBA

Local League Members Attend State Meeting in Indy

In mid May, several LWV/SBA members attended the state meeting in Indianapolis. Beside the wealth of knowledge gained at the meeting, Mary Wilson, the League's National President, was there as a speaker and addressed Healthcare reform in her presentation. Mary also talked about the global climate issues and the Sisters on the Planet video. LWV/SBA member Kathleen Pettijean is involved in this issue at the national level. Contact Kathleen if you would like to help.



Mary Wilson, LWVUS President and Kathleen Pettijean LWV/SBA member.

Confused by HealthCare Reform Language?

Pay or play, deficit neutral, guaranteed access...what does it all mean? If you want to brush up on your healthcare reform language skills Web MD may be a good place to start. The website offers a glossary of healthcare reform terms including:

Comparative effectiveness research: Scientific studies that would assess the effectiveness of various medical treatments, medications, and devices. A component of health reform, the research aims to improve quality of care and control costs.

Co-ops: Private, nonprofit health organizations, run in states or regionally, to compete with private insurance companies. Co-ops are a compromise proposal in the debate over greater government role in health reform.

Deficit neutral: President Obama's requirement that a health care overhaul not add to the federal deficit.

For the complete glossary visit WebMD.

Local League Members Honored

Local LWV members Glenda Rae Hernandez, Robin Forsythe, and Gladys Muhammad will be honored at the 11th Annual Jobs & Justice Dinner. The guest speaker for the dinner will be Jerome Ringo, President of the Apollo Alliance, a coalition of labor, business, environmental, and community leaders working to reduce carbon emissions and oil imports and spur domestic job growth, especially through the development of "green jobs."

The event is sponsored by the Saint Joseph Valley Project and will be held on Thursday, October 29, at the FOP, 1825 East 12th St. Mishawaka. A social hour will be held from 5 to 6 pm with dinner beginning at 6:30.

Tickets for the event are \$30. A table of eight reduces the cost per ticket to \$25.

Call (234-7235) or email Linda Wolfson at lwolfson@sbcsc.k12.in.us to join fellow League members at the event.

Call for Donations from a Fellow Leaguer

I am working with a representative from www.adoptatroop.com We are trying to gather supplies for 30 of our lady troops serving overseas. Would you be willing to help? I am looking for donations of feminine hygiene products (tampons, kotex), elastic hair ties, lip balm, unscented lotions, toothpaste, toothbrush, sun block, women's magazines, candy, deodorant, etc.

If you are willing to contribute and give a gal some support, I know they would appreciate it! The 30 women who will be receiving the products are in Afghanistan in remote areas. These gals have no access to a military store and depend on others to bring them needed products. If you would like to help out please contact me (Jill LaFountain) at jtinlaff@sbcglobal.net or 574-261-8858.

Welcome to the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter. The newsletter needs a name-please submit ideas to any newsletter committee member listed at the bottom of this page. When our next newsletter is distributed we would like to see our new name on prominent display. Our Newsletter will be distributed quarterly and we welcome submissions from our members.

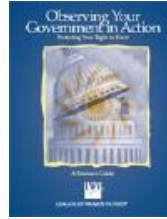
Please submit your articles to:

Amanda Ceravolo-ahart@ywcasic.org,

Barb Phelps – bphelps@memorialsb.org

Kim DeQuis -kimberly.dequis@sbcglobal.net

Observing Your Government in Action



The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area is seeking volunteers for our Observer Corps.

Participation in the Observer Corps is an excellent way for members to learn about local issues and share this information with League members through

Bulletin articles and League meetings. Observers' reports are factual and non-judgmental, present various sides of an issue and are intended to help members to be well-informed before making any decisions concerning possible League or individual action. Please contact Lisa at lisa.plencner@comcast.net or 574-532-8121 for information about this exciting opportunity to promote government transparency.

Further information about the Observer Corps may be found in the Observing your Government in Action Guide on www.lwv.org

Meetings and 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

Evening with the League – Thanks to everyone who attended our first "Evening with the League" on September 17! We had a great mixture of new, experienced, and potential members. We conducted a new member orientation, discussed league as a three tiered organization, and shared what it was that brought them to learn more about joining the LWV. I'd like to welcome Jenny, Jill, Debbie, and Susan, plus thank Lisa Plencner and Kim DeQuis for sharing their knowledge and experience. Also a big thank you to the Beanery for great food and gracious surroundings. Our next Evening with the League will be **October 15, 5:30 pm**. We will be hearing Kathleen Petitjean speak about Global Climate Change. Please join us, or call Kimber Sorenson-Brugh (255-1466) for more information. Additional Evenings with the League will take place November 19 and December 17 at the Beanery.

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

Check out our website at
www.lwvsouthbend.org