

Joining Forces To Call For Equal Pay



Left to right
AAUW South Bend
President April Lidinsky,
YWCA President Linda
Baechle, South Bend
Mayor Pete Buttigieg,
League of Women
Voters SBA Co-President
Kelly Sanford

South Bend, IN-Women deserve equal pay for equal work! That was the rallying cry on the steps of the St. Joseph County Courthouse on Tuesday, April 17th which was Equal Pay Day across the nation.

The League of Women Voters of the South Bend Area joined the YWCA North Central Indiana, AAUW – South Bend, professors & students from the Women & Gender Studies Program at IU South Bend and from Saint Mary's College, and others in the rally on the courthouse steps. South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg issued a proclamation recognizing Equal Pay Day and calling on South Bend employers to support pay equity.

Supporters of closing the wage gap wore red to symbolize how far women are "in the red" with their pay. SBA League Co-President Kelly Sanford pointed out that because of the wage gap, since 1960, the real median earnings of women have fallen short by more than half a million dollars compared to men.

Nationally, women make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes. Indiana falls below the national average with women making 73 cents. [Find out more about the wage gap and see how Indiana compares with other states.](#)

New Board Members Welcomed at Annual Business Meeting

Mishawaka, IN– Several new Board Directors were welcomed during the 2012 LWV SBA annual business meeting. The meeting was held at Doc Pierce's Restaurant in downtown Mishawaka and was both a business meeting and a chance for League members to socialize with one another. League Co-President Lisa Plencner reported to members on the success of the High School Voter Registration Project.

Members also discussed and voted to increase the annual member dues to \$50. Geri Pawelski, John Hagen, Jill Tulchinsky, and Nancy Johnson were elected to the Board of Directors. Director Linda Wolfson is returning to the Board as well as two Board officers-2nd Vice President Barbara Phelps and Treasurer Glenda Rae Hernandez. Melanie Smith-Guillaume is the new nominating chair.

League Helps Build Strong Girls



Lisa Plencner, Jill LaFontain & Nancy Johnson at Girls On the Run

South Bend, IN-South Bend Area League Members were on hand earlier this month to help local girls develop self esteem and confidence. It's all part of Girls on the

Run, a character development program for 3rd thru 5th grade girls in St. Joseph & Elkhart Counties. The 10 week program culminates in a celebratory 5k run/walk. A team of League members took part in the celebration by cheering the girls on. [Find out more about girls on the run in Michiana.](#)

President's Ponderings



I was thinking the other day about how we are all connected to the past and how that may play out in different ways for everyone but still is a commonality in *all* of our lives. The past is part of us and is something we all carry with us – whether it is our own past or the past of our ancestors.

Recently, I found a connection to my past in a unique way; in a pair of cufflinks. I like shirts with French cuffs. I find them elegant; it just makes me feel good to wear them. Have any of you tried to find a pair of cufflinks suitable for a woman's shirt? It's not easy! So, I had been on a quest for a nice pair of cufflinks for some time without much luck!

I was sharing my frustrations, as we all do, with my mom. As I was explaining to her the difficulties I was having, I could see the light bulb go off in her

head. She jumped to her feet and went into her bedroom, returning seconds later with a pair of gold, ladies cufflinks, complete with the letter "S" engraved in them. She explained that these had been her Great Grandmother's (my Great *Great* Grandmother's) cufflinks and that I could have them! Susan Harrison was my Great, Great Grandmother and these cufflinks belonged to her.

Shortly after receiving this wonderful gift from my mother, I got to thinking. My Great, Great Grandmother Susan would have never had the opportunities that I have, that we all have had. She likely would have never worked outside the home; she would have never had property rights but rather been thought of as chattel herself. Not to mention she would have never had the right to vote. Since that time, I

wear a shirt that has French cuffs when I need to feel empowered.

Perhaps this is a silly thing but I seem to derive strength from this talisman that I now wear when I vote, when I speak in public, when I need to find the strength to cope with something that is perhaps beyond my control. I have Great, Great Grandma; Great Grandma; Grandma, and of course, my Mom all with me. It is a powerful connection and I feel it every time I wear my cufflinks. Every time I vote – I think, you've voted now Susan!!

I imagine that there is something in your possession that has been handed down and that you hold dear, if not sacred. I would love to hear all about it! Please, stop me and tell me about it - I welcome your stories!

Kelly Sanford
Co-President, LWVSBA

Local League Members Take Part in State Council

by Barb Phelps

Kokomo, IN- 14 of the 19 Indiana League of Women Voters chapters were represented at the 2012 League of Women Voters Council in Kokomo, IN., earlier this month.

The keynote speaker was Andrew Downs, a professor of Political Science at Indiana Purdue University (IPFW), who spoke on the history of voting and voting rights.

On Sunday morning, SBA League member Geri Pawelski began our day with her presentation on the High School Voter Registration process and made the LWVSBA very proud as she did a fabulous job.

One of the most enjoyable events of the Council, was the informal wine and cheese reception after

Saturday's dinner. Sandy Grant graciously opened her historic home and everyone enjoyed the hospitality and networking.

The attendees from the LWVSBA were – Marti Heline, Geri Pawelski, Jill La Fountain, Kimber Sorenson Brugh and Barb Phelps. Our own Kimber was the lead organizer for the Council and did a fantastic job. The accommodations, food, educational opportunities and silent auction were all top notch. After Council all of the evaluations were extremely positive.

If you have never attended a LWVIN event, please consider doing so – the experience is worthwhile and fun.

Meetings & Events

Lunch with the League-Second Friday of each month at South Bend Chocolate Factory. 11:30 am (speaker begins at noon). This month's speaker: Rey Hernandez on the AARP's "You've Earned a Say" Campaign.

LWVSBA Board Meetings-Fourth Wednesday of each month in the Pokagon Room of the South Bend Library. 5:30 pm
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Want to Get More Involved?

Help plan and host candidate and issue forums

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

Help raise money for the League

Contact Fundraising Chairs Marti Heline & Kathleen Petitjean at mheline@sbcglobal.net & petitk712@gmail.com

Submit story ideas for the newsletter

Contact Newsletter Chair Amanda Ceravolo at aceravolo@ywcancin.org, 233-9491 ext 324