



League of Women Voters of Brown County

April/May 2018



April 30

Annual Brown County League of Women
Voters Dinner.

Seasons Conference Center

Guest Speaker

Brown County Auditor

Beth Mulry

Doors open at 5:30

Buffet dinner at 6:00

Cash Bar 5:30-6:30

Cost \$16

May 8

Primary Elections

May 14

League of Women Voters of
Brown County Board Meeting

10am Library lower level

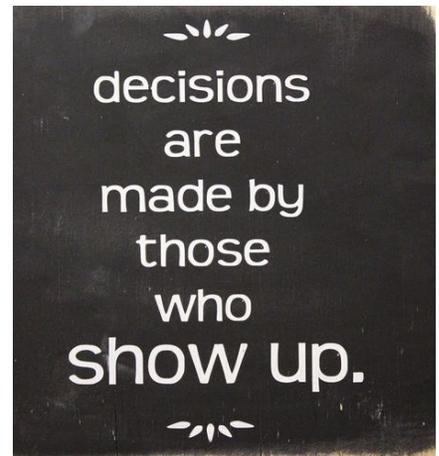
June 15

Look for the League at St.
David's Farmers Market

Brown County Council, Boards &
Commissioner meeting dates, times
and location can be found at:

<http://browncounty-in.gov>

Or browncountymayor.com



In This Issue

- Calendar
- Board Meeting Minutes
- May 8 Election Info.
- Separation of Powers
- Observer Corps
- Earth Day News



League of Women Voters of Brown County

April 9 Meeting Minutes

April 09, 2018

Present: Pam Raider, Julie Winn, Jo-Anne Himebaugh, Shari Frank, Janet Kramer, Jeanne Lager, Tim Clark, Jan Swigert, Heather Nicholson, Clint Studebaker, Ruth Reichmann, Greg Bowes, Cathy Rountree, Laurie Teal, Susanne Gaudin, Robyn Bowman, Tracy Stogsdill, Tanner Bowman and guests Representative Trey Hollingsworth and his aide Carson Jacobs.

Minutes of March 2018 minutes approved with spelling correction to lighting not lightening.

Treasurer report – Treasurer Jeanne Lager reports Treasury is \$3156.16. Two checks received Greg Bowes membership of \$50 and Check from Jones office for Whos Where ad – for \$150.

Correspondence: Cindy Steele of Our Brown County wants to do an article on LWV. Julie to ask for historical perspective from original members.

Current Business:

Voter Registration Recap: Registered 36 kids on paper at the high School and gave out information for texting or on line registration. Julie addressed 4 Social Studies classes and many of these did later register. Both Social Studies teachers, plus the Principal and Superintendent were very receptive. Consider doing again before the general election. Also consider doing voter registration at local farmers markets.

Primary Candidates' Forums: Full house for the Democrat candidates for 9th Congressional district. All did well articulating themselves and differentiating views. Next forum is April 11 with Clerk, Judge and Commissioner's races – Republicans only as empty chair rule won't allow only one Democrat candidate to answer questions – although will be allowed to give brief space to talk. Judge candidates will have 7 minutes to make statements –also no questions from audience to avoid state statute regarding judges statements prior to campaign.

Annual Meeting: Clint and Heather have

secured the Harvest Room at the Seasons Convention Center for April 30th annual meeting. Cost of meal \$15.23 our group votes to have cash bar and raise dinner fee to \$16 to help defray costs. Beth Mulry will be speaking on County Fiscal Issues. Event to begin at 5:30 with dinner beginning around 6:00. Budget and Nominating reports have been sent online as well as request for input on meeting – proposals on issues and workshops for this year – need commentary by April 23rd. Laurie Teal volunteers to be RSVP person for dinner.

New Business:

LWVIN Council on Saturday April 21 – Julie and Pam to go.

Membership Handbook: Janet found old copy of membership handbook – needs redo and add by-laws. Pam makes motion that Shari seconds group agree with putting it on line.

501c(3) By laws review – The LWVIN has applied to become 501c(3) hoping to umbrella in local leagues. Although won't know ruling for some time, our local league needs to craft a resolution changing our bi-laws making this possible which will be voted on at annual meeting. Julie presents draft for consideration at annual meeting which makes possible a letter to state requesting such.

Newsletter/website: Will come out this week listing dates of annual meeting. Post by-laws and dates on website.

Committees:

Health Dept. – Public input on Septic Ordinance March 29 went very well – many good comments draft of Ordinance sent back to Health Department board for revision.

Discussion follows on local septic, sewer, and zoning issues. We learn that Clint is being considered for position on the regional sewer board. Next RDC meeting to discuss follow up to allowance of tiny homes – reducing the acreage requirements. What does this do to already existing septic issues and are governmental and boards working together? Members urged to attend the

Redevelopment and Zoning meeting April 12th 6 PM. Tim offers to collaborate between groups. Should the League consider a workshop again on septic systems?

Cathy Rountree offers again to lead walk through recently cut Tulip Tree part of Yellowwood. At issue are BMP being followed in timely manner – weather permitting.

Observer Corps: Heather reports on Arts and Entertainment – Dancer statue to move again. Last month the Nashville Cultural District received a \$5,000 to be used for Art Gallery Walks and banners at street corners. Also Art Walk moving to last Friday of the month 4-7. Heather wrote grant for \$3000 for new sound system for county and Pavilion music series. The grant interview is 19th.

Susanne has been meeting with Scott Rudd to learn about “funding zones” creating ability of reinvesting capital gains in the community. She reports on the Election board - machines are recharged and securely housed. Changes in polling place: Township Districts Jackson 1 and 2 are now combined voting at Fruitdale Fire Department – Due to ADA issues, polls in Helmsburg move to local Jackson Township Fire station. Plan is to move out of county schools into fire departments and eventually have voter centers.

JoAnne gives up to date Air Shed report showing Indiana's “Best States” ranking tumbled from 22, in 2016, to 33, in 2017. Of the 50 most populous cities, Indianapolis leads the pack in pollution, with 10.9 million pounds of arsenic, lead, mercury and other toxins. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/priceconomics/2017/11/07/the-most-and-least-toxic-places-in-america/#52683b4d4ac1>

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Next Board meeting is May 14, 2018, 10 am BC Library.

Pam Raider

Secretary

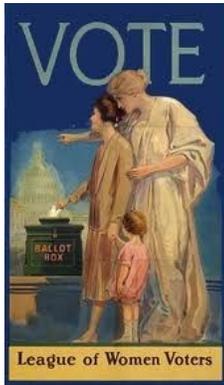
MAY 8

Election Day Deadlines

April 30, 2018 Absentee Ballot Request deadline: DEADLINE, by 11:59 pm, for the circuit court clerk to receive an absentee ballot application from an applicant requesting delivery of an absentee ballot by mail. Applications may be submitted to the circuit court clerk in person or by mail, fax or email.

May 7, 2018 Absentee Ballot Request deadline - UOCAVA citizens: DEADLINE, by noon, for a circuit court clerk to receive absentee ballot applications from military/overseas voters requesting to vote by email or fax.

May 7, 2018 Early Voting/In Person Absentee voting ends: DEADLINE, by noon, for a voter to vote an absentee ballot in person at the office of the circuit court clerk or satellite office.



Separation of Powers

Enlightenment thinkers believed such a system would be more efficient, a division of labor that would make the best use of specialized skill and expertise. Judges would be better at judging if that was the bulk of their responsibilities; legislators would be more adept at passing laws and so forth. They were also convinced that a division of power would keep any one branch from becoming too powerful and thus threaten the liberties of citizens. Each branch would check the powers of the other branches.



The legislative branch passes the laws. The executive branch administers those laws. And the judiciary branch—ultimately, the Supreme Court—determines whether the laws passed by legislators and the actions of the administration are consistent with the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Checks and balances do not stop with the division of the federal government into three separate branches. The system devised by the Founders also gave significant authority to state and local units of the government, further dividing power. We call that structure *federalism*. If you have a zoning issue, you take your issue to your local municipal government; if you want to lobby for changes to environmental or marriage laws, you approach state legislators. Local, state and federal authorities have different, although sometimes overlapping, jurisdictions. Federalism obviously raises the possibility of conflict between federal and state laws; when that happens, the Constitution's Supremacy Clause provide that the federal law prevails. This division of authority between the federal government and the states has generated conflict ever since the issue caused the abandonment of the Articles of Confederation. We continue to struggle with the tension between those who believe that rules should be made by the government closest to the people and who thus prote state's rights and devolution of authority and those whose concern for the need for consistency and uniformity among the states leads them to favor a stronger central government.

Understanding the structure of our government is important for many reasons. If you want to effect a change, you need to know who has the authority to make that change. Understanding how the branches interact is also necessary in order to cast informed votes; at election time, the airwaves are filled with political advertisements blaming officeholders for doing or failing to do something. Often, the effectiveness of that charge depends upon voters not understanding where the actual responsibility for action or inaction lies. This is particularly true of political campaigns for chief executives-governors or the president. People unfamiliar with checks and balances tend to believe that the president or governor can simply decide to make some change and it will happen. That is very rarely the case; even appointments to policymaking positions or the courts often require ratification by the legislative branch. We need to understand the operation of checks and balances and the way they limit the exercise of power in order to arrive at informed opinions about elected officials' performance.

Kennedy, Sheila Suess, author Washing, DC : Georgetown University Press, 2016

Observer Corps

Redevelopment Commission (RDC) April 12

* The Brown County Regional Sewer District's Board president attended the RDC meeting to ask for RDC support for its initiative to build a new wastewater treatment plant to be located near Bean Blossom. The RSD intends to go before the BC Council to ask for \$270,000 as seed money towards a USDA Rural Development grant.

* Statement by Jim Kemp (president RDC) - RDC supports infrastructure projects by other Brown County groups. BC is a residential community that needs basic infrastructure to expand residential development.

* Statement by Steve Brock (licensed water/wastewater rate consultant for RSD) - Without needed infrastructure communities will not grow. BC needs affordable sanitary sewers and can use readily available State and Federal subsidized loans and grants. All sewer districts must rely on their County for loaning startup money (Indiana law states new sewer construction must be beyond the engineering, legal, and financial stages before loan and grant closing stage).

* Statement by Gary Ladd (consulting engineer for RSD water/wastewater treatment plant design) - The new expandable wastewater plant, located near Bean Blossom, would be the Brown County Regional Sewer District's first major project. The location has been identified. Plant is designed to be expandable to accommodate waste from Helmsburg plant if that plant fails. Helmsburg plant is an older 25-year-life design with steel tank, high organics, lots of rainwater infiltration, costly to fix or expand.

* Statement by Judy Swift (president of RSD) - RSD will be going before the BC Council on Monday, April 16th, to ask for the \$270,000 seed money for design engineering, rate study and legal fees for the new wastewater plant.

* Statement from audience - Helmsburg School is currently having sewer backup problems.

submitted by Heather Nicholson



Celebrate Earth Day by participating in the 2nd Annual Great American Cleanup!

The Great American Cleanup is a nationwide event sponsored by Keep America Beautiful, which Keep Brown County Beautiful is an affiliate of. "Keep America Beautiful believes that people and places are profoundly interconnected. Whether you live in a big city, a suburb or a small rural town, the Great American Cleanup is a shining example of how lasting, positive change happens when people work together."

Saturday April 21st, 2018, 9:00 am

Two Clean up locations, meet at:
McDonalds—501 E St Rd 46 Nashville , IN 47448
OR

Shelterhouse across from Brown County Community Church in Helmsburg —2370
Main St, Nashville, IN 47448

FREE coffee and breakfast

Register yourself or your group by emailing keepbcb@gmail.com or calling 812-988-0140

Event will be held rain or shine

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Making Democracy Work

Grassroots leadership since 1920

Educate Advocate Empower Reform

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to women and men.

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

We cordially invite you to join us and encourage you to learn more about the League of Women Voters by attending our meetings and other events, including our Meet the Candidates, Meet Your Legislators and other community forums. Membership is not required to attend these meetings and events.

For more information, including dates, times and membership dues, please call Brown County League of Women Voters President, Julie Winn at 812-988-6225. Your dues payment includes membership in the national, state and local leagues. Visit our website at: www.lwvbrowncounty.org

VOTE:

Your Right. Your Responsibility.

