

President's Message

January, 2008

Dear Friends,

January and February are important months in League. In mid-January we have scheduled a Program Planning Meeting. Leagues across the country will be looking ahead at national issues which might be addressed, and we will be involved as well. (Please see Steve Dana's article for details.) Later in January, we will hold our League Party to celebrate and welcome our locally-elected officials. Please come to enjoy the good food and camaraderie. (See Sallie Killian's article.) In February, only one event is planned. Details will be sent to you as an e-mail announcement. (Please see the Calendar on the back page of this [The Oxford Voter](#).)

Thank you to all who helped with education activities during the fall. In addition, many of you volunteered to participate in the Oxford Comprehensive Plan update meetings and in the Agenda 360 meeting. League members are very visible in our community and we greatly appreciate your involvement.

A new committee is studying the feasibility of setting up an endowment to ensure the financial future of League in our community. More about this later.

And now news from the Board:

- Mary Jo Clark will chair the Affordable Housing Committee. She is monitoring City efforts and will keep the Committee and Board informed.
- Sherry Dunkelberger joins the Board as Voter Service Co-Chair and Vice President working with Karen DeLue.
- The Finance Drive, led by Marcia Waller and her committee, is well underway. A report will appear in the March [Voter](#).
- Redistricting continues to be a matter of concern. Steve Dana and Phil Macklin will be contacting state leaders on this subject shortly.
- The local League website was discussed in depth with Webmaster Helen Gorman. The latest survey indicates an average of 35 requests daily. Board members made several suggestions which Helen agreed to implement. Many compliments were given, including the usefulness of the information and ease of operation.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Sondra Engel

Program Planning
Saturday, January 12, 2008
Lane Library Meeting Room
9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

This is an opportunity for members to review the public policy positions of the League. This year we will be looking at the positions of LWVUS and our Oxford League. My thanks to Linda Williams and Jane Fryman, who are helping me prepare the materials and agenda for this meeting.

In this Oxford Voter you will find the positions of LWVUS and of our League. Please reflect upon the statements and, for each one, see if you think it should be retained, dropped or updated. If you wish an in-depth explanation of an LWVUS position, see *Impact on Issues* on the LWVUS website. Go to www.lwv.org, put "Impact on Issues" in the search box and click. It is not expected that you will have read all the pages of *Impact on Issues*!

We will increase our awareness of current positions, engage in discussion and prioritize areas in which the League should be most active.

Light refreshments will be served. We hope to see you on January 12.

Steve Dana

Vice President for Program

You are Invited!
The Annual LWV Oxford Social
for Guests and Elected Officials

When: Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008
4 to 6 p.m.

Where: LCNB Meeting Room
West Park Place, Uptown
(Upstairs: Stairs and Elevator)

Members are asked to bring:

Your Spouse and/or Guests

"Sweet or Savory" Finger Food

Beverages provided

RSVP by Saturday, Jan. 19 to

Sallie Killian

The committee arranging the annual Social is Donna Hofmann, Karen DeLue, and Linda Williams.

League Mission Statement

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy."

Updated by LWVUS in November, 2007
Adopted by LWVOhio and LWVOxford

Issue 16 and League of Women Voters of Oxford

Working behind the scenes, I cannot thank the League of Women Voters of Oxford enough for their early public forum, early endorsement, and the 19 members who, on very short notice, helped write personal notes to 4,000 certain voters and, on Election Day, with precinct supporter list in hand, noted those who had voted by 4 p.m. and telephoned all others reminding them of the importance of their vote by 7:30 p.m. in support of Issue 16.

In the end, what happened to the outstanding effort for Issue 16? Every precinct in the City of Oxford passed Issue 16 – generally, at 60% – yet, 72% in one of our largest precincts. In contrast, two precincts in the district voted by over 90% against Issue 16. Even traditional support from Oxford Township (YES: 49%; 35%) and Darrtown (22%) did not rally for Issue 16. Issue 16 had the support of 35% of those voting in the Talawanda District. Importantly, the Talawanda Board is holding a public forum to hear from residents what they will support in facilities.

As Superintendent Phil Cagwin wrote to me to share with you: “What are the ingredients of an Excellent Public School System? I would offer that one would include motivated students, effective and caring faculty and staff, an engaged and supportive community, and finally quality facilities that enhance teaching and learning.

“In the Talawanda School District, the Board of Education and its employees are striving to provide our students with an excellent school system. **We cannot do it alone, we need the support of the entire community.**” (Emphasis by Southard)

My sincere hope is that the Talawanda Board will once again – and early – submit the plan to the voters November, 2008 so that the Talawanda Together team has the time to vastly increase the elements needed to win and to demonstrate that Talawanda, indeed, is “an engaged and supportive community.” And, I trust that, once again, the League of Women Voters of Oxford will be there to help from the beginning.

Sally Southard
Talawanda Together Volunteer
Member, League of Women Voters of Oxford

Membership News, December 2007

As of now we have 85 members on our roster. We have 3 new members since the last newsletter. They are Gail Williamson, Toni Saldivar, and Kate Currie.

Gail Williamson and her husband, Craig, moved here from Bethlehem PA a little more than two years ago. They have two boys, both of whom are away at school. Gail is a physical therapist but is not working now. She is enjoying traveling with her husband, gardening, swimming and cross country skiing. Gail is particularly interested in environmental issues.

Toni Saldivar, her husband and her mother moved to Oxford about six months ago after Toni retired as an English professor from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh NY. Her husband, Sam, retired from the faculty at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. They have two boys, one in New York City and one in Los Angeles. Toni enjoys reading, cooking for friends and birding. She is looking forward to getting involved in the many activities in Oxford.

Kate Currie, who graduated from Western College of Miami University, keeps very busy with her 3 year old son, Jack, and all the things she likes to do. She is an artist. Sculpture, painting and drawing are her favorites. Kate is a pastry chef and is working on a cookbook. She worked at the Uptown Bakery in the mid 1990's and owned her own bakery in Madeira. She now has another important job as a member of Oxford City Council. As a city council member she is interested in revitalizing the mile square. She hopes to start a city committee that would find and apply for grants that could help the city achieve some of its plans. Kate's husband, Brian, is a professor in the Geology Department of Miami University.

Linda Williams
Membership Chair

Immigration Study Provides Insights

In response to the request from LWVUS to local Leagues, members of LWV Oxford participated in a study of immigration and reached consensus on the study questions on November 14, 2007.

Members of the immigration study committee, Jane Fryman, Gisela Bahr, Sue Jones, Ginny Thiell and Sandi Hazelton, presented the conclusions of their researches. This is a partial report of the findings of the study group.

As for the motivation of immigration to the United States, there are both push and pull factors.

Immigration intersects other issues, such as terrorism, drugs and farm policy.

Prominent among the findings is that family members attempting to unite with loved ones is a significant driving force. The 1965 immigration law is still the basis of our immigration law. Since 1965, between 50 and 70 percent of U.S. immigrant visas distributed annually have been to close family members of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. Annual ceilings limit the number of family visas that can be awarded, both by country of origin and by preference (qualifying relationship) category.

Because the number of applicants in each category far exceeds available quotas, a backlog has grown to great proportions in each category. By 1997, the last year for which reliable figures were found, backlogs totaled 3,535,430 cases of approved family petitions, including 1,252,270 spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents. The magnitude of the backlog has contributed to the increase in illegal immigration, which is causing severe tensions across America.

The effects of immigration upon the economy have been far reaching. Entrepreneurship by legal, skilled and professional immigrants has resulted in the establishment of new businesses, which creates jobs.

Chinese and Indian nationals run twenty-nine percent of technology firms in the Silicon Valley. In the past fifteen years immigrants have founded one in four U.S. public companies that received venture capital.

More diverse companies are more successful.

Legal unskilled immigrants have taken jobs from unionized workers. The Georgia peach industry has replaced native black workers with Hispanic legal workers. Melon industry union workers have lost jobs to lower paid Mexican field crews. Latino workers who are paid \$3.35 an hour have replaced unionized janitors in Los Angeles who were making \$12 an hour. These displaced unionized workers often find it difficult to find jobs. Legal immigrants working in the farming, construction and food processing industries have lost their jobs to illegal immigrants. Subsidies to American farmers hurt Mexican farmers and contribute to immigration from Mexico.

Americans are having fewer children and are retiring at increasing rates. Immigrants fill the need for workers. Business owners believe that the only way to have an adequate work force is to permit more immigration.

The national position on immigration will appear in June.

Steve Dana

Vice President for Program

League of Women Voters of Oxford's Website Receives Many "Hits"

Curious about how many "hits" our website is receiving, especially before elections? You can view our website statistics at <http://lwvnet.org/lwv/oh/oxford/sitestats.html> .

Our website is hosted by League Easy Web, a fund raiser for the League of Women Voters of California, and uses their webpage design program. LEW is designed to simplify the process of getting a League website online and customized for individual local Leagues. LEW is designed only for League of Women Voters use. Part of the service LEW provides is a statistical program that analyses our website use, the site stats. As you can see from the statistics, our website receives significant use, especially before elections when people are checking out the *Voter Information Guide* for candidate information.

Currently, the Government Services Directory, election information and precinct maps and polling places, archived issues of our *Voter Information Guides* and the League of Women Voters of Oxford Affordable Housing Study are all available online at the website along with the League calendar and our newest page, "In the Spotlight – League News and Events." With the January issue *The Voter* will now be available online.

Be sure to bookmark the League website and check back often
<http://oxford.oh.lwvnet.org>

Helen Gorman
Webmaster

Thank You, Helen

Helen Gorman is a Webmaster's Webmaster! We are so glad to have her and the many skills she brings to this job!

Thank you, Helen, for sharing your knowledge and abilities and your many, many hours. Your work makes a big difference.

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Three of our LWV Oxford members are also members of Oxford City Council. Prue Dana, who has been on Council for several years, was selected Oxford City Mayor, Alysia Fisher has been serving for two years, and Katie Currie was just elected.

We are proud of you all and wish you well! Your work for the City is, and will be, very time consuming, sometimes frustrating and difficult. However, we know you will give of your very best to make our government work well. Thank you.

The Oxford Voter

Newsletter for the League of Women Voters of Oxford

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www.oxford.oh.lwvnet.org

The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Calendar

January 7 - Monday - Noon - Phan Shin **Executive Committee**

January 12- Saturday - 9:30-11:45 a.m. - Lane Public Library

Local and State Program Planning

January 26 -Saturday - 4-6 p.m. - LCNB Meeting Room, Park Place **League Social**

(Reminder post cards to come. RSVP requested.)

February 4 - Monday - 4-6 p.m - Lane Library Meeting Room **Board Meeting**

February 26 - Tuesday - 7:30 p.m. - LCNB Community Room

Local and Regional Recycling and the Environment

Reminder: Everyone is invited to attend **Executive Committee and Board Meetings!**