

The Oxford Voter – November 2009

Making Democracy Work - League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio

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.



The League of Women Voters of Oxford

Invites You to
The December Social

Saturday, December 5, 2009
5:30-7:30 p.m.
LCNB Community Room

Meet recently elected officials :
Oxford City Council
Milford, Reily, Hanover and Oxford Township Trustees
Talawanda School Board

Beverages provided

LWV Members: Please bring
--a sweet or savory appetizer plate
--a guest (spouse, partner, friend, a neighbor, or potential member)

R. S. V. P.
Karen DeLue by December 1
523-8852 (kdelue@yahoo.com)

Save the Date!

Saturday, January 23, 2010 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. is the program planning meeting. We will be examining local and national program positions to decide if we want to review an existing position, recommend a new study or program item, or accept the position with no changes.

Mary Jo Clark, Program Vice President

Voter Service

Where League Makes a Difference

Voter Registration: A second voter registration was held on September 19 at Kroger. Workers were Kate Currie, Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, Roz Mandell, Linda Simmons and Becky Quay. Richard Miller from the NAACP worked the whole shift.

Voter Information Guide: Thanks especially to behind-the-scenes miracle worker Helen Gorman, the VIG was published in the Oxford Press Oct. 16th. Other than misprinting our website address (my fault), it was error free thanks to proofers Jane Fryman, Donna Hofmann, Helen Gorman, Gail Williamson, Rosemary Pelphrey, Sharon Peterson and Edna Southard. The Press inserts 3500 copies in the distributed papers, and we put out another 2200 copies around town and the townships. Prue Dana puts 800 in the Kids Voting packets used in the schools. Donna Hofmann, Jane Fryman, Sharon Peterson, Rosemary Pelphrey and Karen DeLue formed two teams and distributed the copies to medical offices, laundromats, hair stylists, coffee shops, etc. Helen Gorman added the VIG to the LWV website.

Candidates Forum: Thanks to Prue and Steve Dana, this was successfully held October 26th at the Senior Citizens Center. We miss the opportunity to broadcast with WMUB. We borrowed microphones from the Talawanda School District and the city provided a man to tape the forum so it could be replayed twice on Channel 19. It was well attended. Sally Southard was MC and Donna Hofmann was timekeeper, two nerve-racking jobs done well. Kathleen Knight Abowitz, Becky Quay, and Rosemary Pelphrey were also key volunteers. There are more who deserve credit--apologies and thanks to all of them.

Karen DeLue, Voter Service Chair

Observer's Report

Kathleen Knight Abowitz observed the November 17th **Oxford Council** meeting. Highlights included "Thanks" for the outgoing Council members (Alysia Fischer, Doug Ross, and Prue Dana) from Jerome Connolly, Randi Thomas, Linda Musmeci Kimball, and Jim Robinson. The newly elected members' first meeting will be in two weeks.

Also of interest related to cooperation between Governmental Units is the following.

Resolution: *Authorizing City of Oxford to provide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services to Oxford Township, under terms of new (2-year) agreement. Township Trustees will vote on it at next meeting. If this does not happen they should terminate current agreement and bill monthly. (passed 7-0)*

Oxford Township Trustees Rosemary Pelphrey with Karen DeLue as substitute observer.

Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) Mary Jo Clark **Talawanda Board of Education** Sue Jones and Sandy Drewes

Oxford City Council Kathleen will be able to observe only one more meeting. Someone(s) is/are needed.

If you are interested in seeing the new Oxford City Council members begin their service to the community, call Jane Fryman at 523-4932.

Jane Fryman, Observer Corps Chair

Sharon Peterson (Member since 1974)

I wonder if Betty Stousland and Dorothy Dahoda had any idea when they brought their new neighbor to her first League meeting in Oxford that Sharon would go on to make many contributions to the organization and community.

Sharon remembers how the Oxford community has benefited from many League efforts: support for improved public and school libraries, transportation and housing for the elderly, a program to increase availability of affordable housing for people with low and moderate incomes, help in accessing loans to buy homes and move back into the Mile Square, and support of human services, especially for children.

She states that the League also worked with senior citizens in the community to raise money to build the Senior Center, which provides services and activities for older adults.

“The League supported them in becoming a body that could apply for state and federal dollars for that building, and for the first HELP van in the 70s.” Sharon claims that the new LWVOx website (oxford.oh.lwvnet.org) is a real boon, not just for the League, but for the community as a whole. “And what about the ongoing services-- the Voter Information Guide, the Candidates Forum, and the Government Services Directory-- three big areas where people look to the League and really depend on it?”

Sharon believes that the League has benefited her personally and enhanced her own life. She has enjoyed meeting people of varied backgrounds in the League in Oxford and in other chapters, and also in the Oxford community while representing the League. Enhancement of leadership skills has been another benefit: she has learned to understand different points of view and to pull together a variety of ideas, skills that increased her effectiveness at work. “Every one of us has something we can contribute to the organization and the community.”

What might you be able to contribute? Or what about that new neighbor you could bring to our next meeting?
What might she/he contribute?

Gail Williamson, Membership

New Member Judith Kolbas

Two years ago (after living abroad for 30 years and never having stepped foot in Ohio), Dr. Judith Kolbas boarded a Cincinnati-bound plane in Moscow in order to move to Oxford. Her most recent home had been near Shanghai. She is an adjunct professor of history at Miami doing research on medieval Central Asian economic history.

Judy is currently establishing a Central Asian Numismatic Institute under the aegis of the Central Asia Forum of the University of Cambridge with board members from Russia, Pakistan, the Czech Republic, the UK, and the USA (Bob Wicks at the Miami Art Museum). As an historian who sees long-term trends and who has experienced living in other cultures, she can offer new perspectives and insights into our own nation's issues.

She is particularly interested in healthcare reform, new viable energy sources (especially in transportation), and reform of the banking and stock market system. Judy is very appreciative of Oxford's intellectual environment and physical environment with its numerous wonderful walks. “After two years of being here, I still love it and feel privileged that I can participate in the community in some small way.”

Gail Williamson, Membership

Keep Up to Date

Go to our website: <http://oxford.oh.lwvnet.org>

- Get updates of LWVOx events
- Check out “In the Spotlight”
- Read current and back issues of *The Oxford Voter*
- Consider LWVOx Positions and Studies
- View the online Government Services Directory and Voter Information Guide
- Get up to date election information

Helen Gorman, webmaster

Calendar Update

At its November meeting the Board of Directors put specific dates on the rest of the 2009-2010 calendar. The Executive Committee meeting will be at the home of Mary Jo Clark and the location of other meetings will be announced. All are welcome to attend.

December

Executive Committee: Wednesday, December 2, 4 p.m.

January

Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 4 p.m.

Program Planning: Saturday, January 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

February

Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 4 p.m.

Local Program Meeting

Redistricting: Wednesday, February 17, 7 p.m.

March

Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 4 p.m.

Local Program Meeting

Local environmental issues: Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m.

April

Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 4 p.m.

Annual Convention: Tuesday, April 27, 7 p.m.