

The Oxford Voter – September 2010

Making Democracy Work

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.

Welcome to the New League Year

Welcome to the 2010-2011 year of the League of Women Voters of Oxford. Your Board of Directors, under the leadership team of Mary Jo Clark, Karen DeLue, Joanne McQueen and Sally Southard, has approved the program calendar and has committees to implement the programs. These include a membership meeting in September, State Finance Consensus Meeting and the Candidates Forum in October, Program Planning in January and two meetings in February and March that emphasize sustainability—school district issues, local energy study update. In addition, the Board has encouraged the use of technology to communicate and support League activities by sponsoring a Facebook workshop in September and updating the “members only” page on our website <http://oxford-members.oh.lwvnet.org>.

Mary Jo Clark
Co-President
Organization Vice President

Two New Studies Approved at LWVUS Convention

The LWVUS Convention was held in Atlanta June 11-15. The convention delegates adopted two new studies to be carried out over two years.

- A study of the federal role in public education. The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.
- A study on privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

The study of the federal role in public education will be considered first and a national study committee is being formed. As information about the studies develops we will be passing it on to you.

Mary Jo Clark
Organization Vice President

First Fall Program: Celebrating our History

The League's first program of the 2010-2011 year, "**Celebrating our History**," continues the commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with a Readers' Theater production. Oxford's well-known actors, Dixie Utter and Drena Williams Bowerman, will be joined by the League's own Sallie Killian and, a special guest, Broadway actor Matthew Saldivar. The drama, titled "*Failure is Impossible*," uses voices of those involved in the struggle for women's suffrage as found in their recorded words.

The evening will also celebrate the 57th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters of Oxford. The goal of the program is to bring alive some voices whose words and deeds shaped our consciousness.

One of those, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, spoke at Miami University in 1870. Learn more about that event--and Stanton's particular words to her MU and Oxford audience--by coming to the program on **September 29, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the LCNB Community Room**. There will be a visual display, as well as refreshments, and time to enjoy both. The program is free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring friends.

Toni Saldivar

LWV Oxford Participates in Historic Election Lawsuit Monitoring Project

From the LWVO Election Lawsuit Monitoring Project Report, June, 2010:

“ Seeking to redress decades-old procedural defects in the way Ohio conducts federal elections, resulting in Constitutional violations, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County, and more than a dozen Ohio citizens filed a lawsuit against the state of Ohio on July 28, 2005.”

“The lawsuit alleged that the then-Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, then-Governor Bob Taft, and their predecessors failed to protect the fundamental rights of eligible Ohio voters to cast a meaningful ballot, as required by the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.”

“The complaint chronicled deficiencies in Ohio election administration over more than three decades, including widespread problems with election planning, voter registration, the absentee and provisional ballot processes, the training of poll workers, the organization of polling places and precincts, the allocation of voting equipment and resources, disability access, and voting technology and security.”

“On June 16, 2009, the League and its co-plaintiffs reached a historic agreement with the state of Ohio to fix defects in the way Ohio conducts its elections.”

Members of 22 Local Leagues held a face-to-face interview with staff of county boards of elections. They collected information on their board's conduct of elections. Earlier this year LWV Oxford members Sue Momeyer and Steve Dana interviewed the staff of the Butler County Board of Elections.

They found that this Board is complying quite well with the terms of the settlement agreement. The finding for all of the county boards whose members were interviewed is that they are “largely” complying with the terms of the lawsuit settlement. There is room for improvement by some boards, particularly in the area of full compliance with accessibility laws and training of poll workers.

Many Leagues experienced what Sue and Steve did: county staff was willing to share challenges and problems as well as successes.

Steve Dana

Opportunities to take part in Voter Service

VOTER REGISTRATION - **October 2 at Krogers from 9-3.** Becky Quay already has this well staffed. Drop by and give the volunteers a cheerful ‘thumbs up’.

CANDIDATE FORUM – **Monday, October 18, at the Knolls Community Room**

7 pm – 9pm. **We’ll need all hands on deck for this.** Contact Prue Dana 523-6579. There are many tasks, some large, some small, some behind-the-scenes, some quite visible. All need to be done!

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE – To be published on Friday, October 8, as an insert in the Oxford Press. Contact Karen DeLue 523-8856.

- Proof reading on **September 20 and 22 at the Oxford Press at 9:30 am.**
- **Distribution Party, October 8 at the Oxford Press at 9:30.** We’ll form teams and blanket the area with Voter Guides. Then R&R with the distribution bunch at Kona’s for lunch.

In the event that we need to be flexible about any of the above, please let Karen know (523-8856 or kdelue@yahoo.com) if you plan to help so she can contact you if schedules are changed.

Karen DeLue, Voter Service



Therefore, I, Kenneth H. Bogard, vice-mayor of the City of Oxford, Ohio, do hereby proclaim Thursday, August 26, 2010: Women's Equality Day and urge all citizens to join in celebrating our nation's progress of providing "Equal Opportunities for all".

And join us in celebrating they did! Among those participating in the Oxford League of Women Voters sponsored event were students from Ann fuehrer's Women Studies classes, present and past presidents of the Association for Women Students, and Pat Kaufman portraying 'everywoman' who cited the pros and cons of suffrage for women. Also attending were League member Jane Goettch, Rhonda Jackson from the Women's Center and Brenda Kayne, a new member of Oxford's League of Women Voters and a descendent of Susan B. Anthony.

Attendees of the women's group, "Jubilee: Women, Wisdom and Age" were accompanied by League member and event spokesperson, Kathy McMahon Klosterman.

The "past" was "present" as we honored our foremothers. The future seems evident as the League and its community of supporters continues to strive for "equal opportunities for all".

Joanne McQueen
Women's Equality Day chair

Luan Luce Remembered

Luan Luce, a member of our League since 1996, passed away on July 15, 2010. Luan joined our organization shortly after she retired from her position as Professor of French at Miami University (1970-1995). Her retirement became a time of increasing community activity including her tireless efforts to establish the local Institute for Learning in Retirement. At the very same time, Luan was becoming interested in the many facets of League. Her service on the League Board of Directors included Observer Corps Chair and, later, Treasurer in the late 90s. Luan's interests in national issues led her to join committees working on the Death Penalty Study ('06) and the National Popular Vote Study ('09). In addition, she worked on fund raising and membership committees over the years.

Those of us who knew her well had great admiration for Luan. She was a woman with high energy and passion for issues and causes. Working closely with Luan in 2003, she and I planned for the League's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Of course, it was Luan who came up with "Golden Jubilee" for the event's name. Luan knew how to stretch our limited budget and create a very successful day with many local and county leaders joining in the celebration.

For those of you who would like to honor Luan's memory in a tangible way, we ask you to consider making a donation to the League of Women Voters of Oxford Fund at the Oxford Community Foundation.

Sondra Engel

Facebook Training on September 25th

There will be a Facebook workshop on **Saturday September 25th at 1:30pm in the Avis Cullen meeting room at the Oxford Lane Library**. During this workshop Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, the LWVOx's Facebook Administrator, will discuss some of the basics of using Facebook. We'll discuss some basic vocabulary, navigating the network, privacy issues, filtering out unnecessary information, and of course becoming a fan of our Facebook page! Check us out at www.facebook.com/lwvoxford . If you have a laptop, please bring it with you, so you can follow along during the demonstration. Please contact Arianne at hartsea@muohio.edu, if you have questions.

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy

*****REMINDER*****

**It's time to renew your membership for fiscal year July 1, 2010 -
June 30, 2011!**

In August, a membership renewal form was mailed to all 2009-2010 members of the League of Women Voters of Oxford. If you have not already done so, please

take a moment to fill out your form and send it with a check to: League of Women Voters, Oxford, P.O. Box 504, Oxford, OH 45056.

If you need another copy of the form, you can download it from our website by going to: <http://oxford.oh.lwvnet.org> and selecting "FORM" from the column on the left.

2010-2011 Program Calendar

September

- **Wednesday, September 29, 7:00 PM** in the LCNB Community Room: Local program and membership meeting—"Celebrating Our History". The event is part of the League's celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment and of its own local history.
- **Saturday, September 25, 1:30 PM** at Lane Library: Facebook training for members.

October

- Monday, October 18, 7 P.M. at the Knolls: Candidates Forum.
- Wednesday, October 27, 7 P.M. in the LCNB Community Room: Local Program Meeting –State Finance Consensus.

November

- Tuesday, November 2: Election Day

January

- Late January, date and time TBA: State and Local Program Planning and League Social.

February

- Monday, February 28, 7 P.M. in the LCNB Community Room: Local Program Meeting—Talawanda School District Sustainable Building.

March

- Wednesday, March 23, 7 P.M. in the LCNB Community Room : Local Program Meeting—Local Energy Study Update .

April

- Tuesday, April 26, 7 P.M. in the LCNB Community Room : Annual Convention.

Mary Jo Clark
Organization Vice President

SAVE THE DATES IN OCTOBER

- Candidates Forum (10/18)
- State Finance Consensus Meeting (10/27)