



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.

The Oxford Voter

February, 2011

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Save the Date

- New School—Green School: Wednesday, February 23, 7 p.m. at the LCNB Community Room
- Regional Meeting: ADVOCACY: Jumpstarting at the Local Level: Saturday, February 26, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm at Dayton Metro Library
- Why Hamilton is the Greenest City in Ohio: **Tuesday, March 22**, 7 p.m. at the LCNB Community Room. **(NOTE DATE CHANGE)**
- Statehouse Day 2011: Thursday, April 7 at Verne Riffe Center, Columbus
- LWVOx Annual Convention: Tuesday, April 26, 7 p.m. at the LCNB Community Room
- LWVO Convention, May 13-15, “Sustaining Democracy through Sustainable Communities” at Maumee State Park



February 23 LWV Meeting : A Program Not to be Missed!
7 p.m., LCNB Community Room

The panel for the program “NEW SCHOOL: GREEN SCHOOL includes four people who have worked with students, faculty and the community on various efforts which all have the goal of creating a sustainable environment for the Talawanda School District.

The main focus has been the planning of the new high school to be a LEED* certified building. Charlie Jahnigen, (AIA LEED-AP, Vice President SHP Leading Design) will discuss the planning and building from the architects' perspective. He has been the Project Manager for the Talawanda High School and he has also interacted with the faculty and students who have taken an active role in the development of the new building and its surrounding landscape.

There has been an innovative and exciting collaboration in this planning with university and high school students. Tom Klak, Professor in the Department of Geography, Miami University, has worked with at least two groups of university students as part of the Wilks' Scholars Leadership, Seminar in Shaping Sustainable Communities.

Jeff Winslow, Science Instruction Leader at Talawanda High School, has coordinated the high school students' participation. Klak and Winslow will discuss the contributions made by those students.

Finally, Holli Morrish, Coordinator for Community Development, will highlight additional programs in the district which have contributed to making Talawanda an environmentally sustainable district.

Prue Dana, recent mayor, will be moderator. The program has been designed and implemented by Sandi Woy-Hazelton, LWV Chair of Environment and Adjunct Associate Professor, Institute for the Environment & Sustainability.

*LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the system used in the United States and other countries around the world that sets standards for creating a sustainable environment.



2011 Oxford Area Government Services Directory

The Government Services Directory, or GSD, is a handy little pamphlet our League publishes containing everything you need to contact your government at the local, county, state or national level. Plus, it has information about community resources, the schools, voting registration, election dates and more.

Thank you to Karen DeLue, Sandy Drewes, Mary Melvin, Devona Miller, Tammy Woods, Becky Quay and Pat Willeke for taking sections of the GSD to update and verify.

Thank you to Gail Brown, League friend with superb editing talents, which she often shares with us, for checking it for style and making many good suggestions.

Thank you to Helen Gorman, our webmaster and computer guru extraordinaire for making it into a PDF.

This will be the first time we will have had it printed by the Oxford Press. The print copy may take as long as three weeks to arrive for folding and distribution, but it is on our web page *right now*.

www.oxford.oh.lwvnet.org.

Karen DeLue, VP for Voter Service



ADVOCACY: Jumpstarting at the Local Level Regional Meeting February 26

The Southwest Regional Meeting is being held Saturday, February 26 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at the Dayton Metro Library, Main Branch. This would be a great follow-up to our wonderful program planning meeting.

Advocacy/Action is the next step after we have established our program positions. I'm planning to drive and can take three passengers--anyone want to go with me? Contact me at 523-6515 or clarkmj1@muohio.edu.

See information below.

Mary Jo Clark, Co-President, Organization Vice President

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OHIO



REGIONAL MEETING

for the members of the

SOUTHWEST LEAGUES

LWV Cincinnati, LWV Clermont County, LWV Darke County,
LWV Greater Dayton & LWV Oxford

MEG FLACK, LWVO President
will lead a discussion in

**ADVOCACY: Jumpstarting at the
Local Level**

FEBRUARY 26, 2011

9:30-12:00 am

at

Dayton Metro Library, Main Branch
215 E. Third St., Dayton

DONATIONS WELCOME

RSVP to Jean Koznarek, jkozlwv@aol.com or 216-702-8430



Conservation Development In and Around Oxford

Randall Arendt, one of the nation's leading planning authorities, gave a talk "Conservation Development and New Urbanism" January 31 on Miami University's Oxford campus. The talk was a kick off to a semester of collaboration between Arendt, Wilks Scholars and local officials around the challenge of sustainable development and planning. Arendt's visit was sponsored by the Harry T. Wilks Leadership Institute, with support from Oxford-area governments and the Oxford League of Women Voters.

Arendt, a landscape planner, site designer, author, lecturer, and an advocate of "conservation planning" shared his thesis that subdivisions and other new developments can be designed with greater sensitivity to the environment, while being both financially rewarding for developers and fiscally sound for local authorities. His most recent book *Envisioning Better Communities* explores how communities can imagine and implement wiser development choices. He showed numerous pictures of these communities which had developed in this way.

Following the lecture, elected and appointed officials, stakeholders and students participated in a workshop where they mapped "greenways" of the properties surrounding and including the new high school. They then did an exercise that allowed them to create theoretical developments that made use of what they discovered in mapping the greenways.

A return visit and workshop are scheduled for those same participants February 28. They will focus on actual properties that are on 27 South beginning first with walking the site. All of the information and ideas gathered from this last workshop will be studied and put together in "Area Plans" by the Wilks Scholars. We will keep in touch and invite League members to the students' reporting out of these plans. As the high school is finished and opened a year from now, this area south of town promises to experience great changes. *Prue Dana*



January 22nd Worked - as a Social *and* Planning Event

The Board is pleased with the success and member accolades for our first combined social and program planning event held Saturday, January 22, 10 am-2 pm, at the Marcum Conference Center. It is the wish of the Board that this joint event happen next January and, as this year, invites guests and the public to come, participate (not vote), and see how the League develops positions from the grassroots.

45 persons of which 12 were non-members, at 3 squared tables, discussed and reached consensus on issues raised by the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO) and by LWVOx. Using the LWVO Agenda for Action 2009-2010 and Oxford League's positions, each table broke into smaller group settings for first discussions. Each table was a separate group reviewing *Representative Government*, led by Prue Dana; *Environment*, led by Gail Williamson; and *Social Policy*, led by Sue Jones and Tammy Wood. Each group voted to retain each position currently in the LWVO's Agenda for Action.

Following reports of consensus within each group, the full assemblage voted the **greatest support for the Government Discussion Group "to direct the LWVO to put resources behind Apportionment/ Districting, particularly in terms of advocacy."** (Secretary's Notes approved by Board 2/14/11.)

After adjournment, attendees enjoyed fellowship, lunch and wine and learned from Sondra Engle about the League of Women Voters of Oxford Foundation Fund designed to endow future efforts of our Oxford League.

Sally Southard, Program Vice President



Leave a Legacy to LWV

Have you considered remembering the League of Women Voters of Oxford in your will? An endowment at the Oxford Community Foundation has been established to sustain League programs and activities and perpetuate its community service. When updating or revising your will would you please consider listing the League of Women Voters Endowment as a recipient? In addition, tax deductible donations can also be made. Gifts can be sent to:

The Oxford Community Foundation
52 East Park Place, Suite 4
Oxford, OH 45045-1884
Attention: League of Women Voters Endowment



Highlights from Your State League: Mid-November, 2010 – Mid-January, 2011

Below is a snapshot of some of your state League's activities since the November general election. If you would like more information about any of these items, please call the LWVO/EF office (toll free) at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO or at 614-469-1505.

- Coordinated the 2010 Post-Election Audit Observation Pilot Project in which nearly 50 members from 15 Leagues assessed the compliance of 14 county boards of elections with Secretary of State Brunner's post-election audit requirements per the 2009 lawsuit settlement agreement. The pilot project is also intended to build Leagues' relationships with their election boards and provide a framework for a more comprehensive project in 2012, when the next audit is required.
- Collaborated with the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law to assess the quality of 32 county boards' election administration plans, with a full report due this spring. We will share the results with you and the Secretary of State when the report is finalized. This is another activity designed to ensure the 2009 settlement terms of our historic 2005 election lawsuit are honored.
- Promoted a 2011 redistricting competition similar to the 2009 model cosponsored by the League with Secretary of State-elect Husted and strategized with redistricting reform partners regarding next steps.
- Engaged Joanna Helon as Interim Executive Director for LWVO / EF. Helon has more than 10 years non-profit leadership experience and over the next few months will help us chart our future course.
- Monitored the Ohio Budget Commission meetings; met with LWVO lobbyists to gain their perspective on the Ohio budget; and joined Advocates for Ohio's Future whose goal is to maintain vital public services at a level that meets people's basic needs and protects our state's most vulnerable populations.
- Determined where there was consensus among Ohio Leagues on the State Taxation and Finance Update Study and approved the updated position.
- Distributed 2011 LWVO Program Planning and Legislative Interview materials to local Leagues for member involvement.
- Determined not to recommend at this time that LWVO move to a 2-year budget cycle.

Now it's time to start filling in your 2011 calendar! Dates to remember....

Feb. 26, 2011: Regional meetings focusing on idea exchanges regarding advocacy.

April 7, 2011: Statehouse Day 2011 at the Riffe Center, Columbus.

May 13-15, 2011: LWVO Convention at Maumee Bay State Park.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month: Lobby Lunches at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, 43215. Everyone is welcome to join us for an update of legislative activity and the political scene, so if you find yourself in Columbus on a Lobby Lunch date, just drop in.