



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

August, 2011

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Save the Dates

- Sunday, August 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Uptown Park: voter registration part of the new student welcoming event.
- Friday, August 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Miami University Women's Center, MacMillan Hall: Women's Equality Day voter registration.
- Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 p.m. at TMS: The first meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study.
- Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. at TMS: The second meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study Meeting.
- Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. at TMS: The third meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study Meeting.



Welcome to the New League Year

Welcome to the 2011-12 year of the League of Women Voters of Oxford. Your Board of Directors, under the leadership team of Mary Jo Clark, Prue Dana, Karen DeLue, Kathleen Knight-Abowitz, Jo McQueen and Sally Southard, has approved the program calendar and has committees implementing the programs. A copy of the calendar is included in this Voter.

This Voter is coming out earlier than usual because we have a very full study calendar and our first meeting is on Wednesday, August 31. We have two active studies and the possibility of two more. One of the active

studies is the LWVUS study of the Role of the Federal Government in Education that will have three meetings and is the topic of our August 31st meeting. The second active study is our Local Energy Study that will be the topic of our March meeting. The two possible additional studies are the LWVUS study of the Privatization of Government and the LWVO study on Human Trafficking. One of them may be the topic of the February meeting.

In addition to these studies we will be doing our usual voter service and action activities. I'm looking forward to joining you in an exciting League year.

Mary Jo Clark
Co-President
Organization Vice President



Women's Equality Day Celebrated August 26 Voter Registration Volunteers Needed

Get out those sashes!

Our last year's Women's Equality Day celebration inspired the Miami University Women's Center to invite us to celebrate this year by registering new students to vote.

Commemorating the passage of the Constitutional amendment of 1920 which gave women the right to vote, Women's Equality Day, August 26, falls within Miami's University's welcome week for first year students.

The Women's Center sees an opportunity for our League to join them in providing voter registration to unregistered voters among the new students. We need volunteers from LWVOx for this event which will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 on the patio of McMillan Hall.

The Women's Center, located in McMillan Hall, would like our volunteers to come in vintage dress, just as we did last August 26 on the steps of the Municipal Building. Our passion for sharing the story of women's struggle for equal rights can encourage young women to know this history and to be a part of shaping the future.

Contact Joanne McQueen (513 523 6653) by August 19 if you would like to be part of this outreach to new voters at Miami University on August 26. What better way to celebrate Women's Equality Day than by registering young women to vote.

Joanne McQueen
Co-Program Vice President



August 31 Launches Study on the Role of the Federal Government in K-12 Education

Our fall programming kicks off at 7 pm on August 31st as we launch a study on the role of the federal government in K-12 education. On this evening in the Talawanda Middle School auditoria (note location change), we'll hear from a panel of local and national experts as we prepare to reach a consensus on a set of questions related to common core standards, assessments/testing, and federal funding for equity. (See the full list of consensus questions for the study that are attached to this email.) Panelists for August 31st include:

Kelly Spivey, Superintendent of the Talawanda School District;
Kate Rousmaniere, Professor of Educational Leadership at Miami University;
Mary Beth Bergeron, School Psychologist and Intervention Coordinator at Marshall Elementary;
Constance Weaver, Heckert Professor of Teacher Education, Miami University.

This meeting will be open to all.

On September 13 at the TMS media center, members will be able to participate in a deliberation process on

the common core standards and assessments issue, and **on October 5th in the same location**, we'll deliberate on the role of federal funding in achieving educational equity in the public schools.

This study comes at a crucial time. As the Congress prepares to debate the re-authorization of the No Child Left Behind Act in the fall legislative season, our national League wishes to hear from its members regarding the most hotly contested aspects of this education law. This study presents an opportunity for us to learn and think critically together about K-12 education policy, and to shape the national League's position on these crucial issues.

Kathleen Knight-Abowitz
Co-Program Vice President

Please see the "Public Education Consensus Question" information attached to this mailing for further information on this issue.



Report on Redistricting in Ohio

Every ten years, following the census, the General Assembly draws district lines for both Congressional and for State Senate and House Districts. This year, two developments gave hope that members of the public would be able to register their opinions regarding redistricting. In particular, we have attempted to draw the attention of legislators to the obvious and undeniable gerrymandering that produces districts with a clear advantage to one party. In effect, Ohio's legislators' drawing of districts has produced districts that reflect their choice of us, rather than our choice of them.

The first reason for hope that we might influence the process and outcome of redistricting arises from the public meetings that Ohio's legislators have been holding around the state, meetings in which they solicit public testimony. Secondly, with the initiative of the League of Women Voters of Ohio and Ohio Citizen Action, a second contest, called drawing the lines, is being held to permit citizens to draw district lines that are representationally fair, more competitive, compact and respectful of county and city boundaries. The first such contest was held in 2009, and it produced districts that meet these criteria very well.

On August 2, Steve Dana, representing the League of Women Voters of Oxford, testified at the University of Cincinnati on Congressional districting before the State Government and Elections Sub-Committee on Redistricting in conjunction with the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting. Testimony from the Congressional hearings is being posted on the Secretary of State's redistricting website. On August 25 the Apportionment Board will take testimony concerning Ohio House and Senate districts.

Steve Dana
Government Chair



2011-2012 Program Calendar

August

- Sunday, August 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Uptown Park: voter registration part of the new student welcoming event.
- Friday, August 26, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Miami University Women's Center, MacMillan Hall: Women's Equality Day voter registration.
- Wednesday, August 31, 7:00 p.m. at the Talawanda Middle School Auditoria: The first meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study. A panel of local and national experts will help us

prepare to reach a consensus on a set of questions related to common core standards, assessments/testing, and federal funding for equity.

September

- Monday, September 12, 4:00 p.m. at Lane Library: Board Meeting.
- Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m. at the Talawanda Middle School Media Center: The second meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study Meeting. We'll deliberate the common core and assessments issue.
- Saturday, September 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Kroger: voter registration (tentative)

October

- Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 p.m. at the Talawanda Middle School Media Center: The third meeting about the role of the Federal Government in Education Study Meeting. We'll deliberate on the role of federal funding in achieving educational equity in the public schools.
- Monday, October 10, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Friday, October 14: Distribute the Voter Information Guide.
- Wednesday, October 19, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Knolls: Candidates Forum

November

- Tuesday, November 8, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.: Election Day.
- Wednesday, November 9: Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day. (time and location TBA)
- Monday, November 14, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Archiving Workshop: Date and time to be announced.
- Finance Drive: Date and time to be announced.

December

- Monday, December 12, 4:00 p.m. at Mary Jo Clark's home: Executive Committee Meeting

January

- Monday, January 9, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Saturday, January 21, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Marcum Conference Center

February

- Monday, February 13, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Program meeting to be announced.

March

- Monday, March 12, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Thursday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.: Local Energy Study (location TBA)

April

- Monday, April 9, 4:00 p.m.: Board Meeting (location TBA)
- Tuesday, April 24, 7:00 p.m. at LCNB Community Room; Annual Convention



The League of Women Voters: Fiscal year: July 1, 2011– June 30, 2012

By now you have received your membership renewal form. If you have not yet returned your dues in the addressed envelope provided, please do so. Your membership is important to the League of Women

Voters and has these benefits to you:

- * significant programs and publications that inform voters about local, state, and national issues.
- * add your voice to that of League members in all 50 states.
- * act on important community issues and/or let your membership add to LWV strength.

Individual memberships are \$45 which helps toward payment of Ohio and LWVUS assessments. Household memberships are \$75 for two persons at the same address.

Membership year coincides with the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Memberships expire June 30.

Additional contributions go to the General Account which supports the cost of operating expenses, local newsletter, meetings, publicizing LWV positions, and lobbying efforts. A contribution may be added to the membership dues or made separately. Checks are payable to LWV Oxford. A contribution to this fund is not tax deductible.

Contributions to the Education Fund are tax deductible. The Education Fund supports educational activities such as publication of the Voter Information Guide, the Candidates Forum, and the Government Services Directory. Checks to this fund are made to LWV Oxford Education Fund.

Membership Form for League of Women Voters of Oxford, 2011 – 2012

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____

Check type of membership you wish:

_____ \$45 Individual – Contributing

_____ \$75 Household - Contributing

\$_____ Additional Contribution – please circle one: General
Account or Education Fund

Write checks to LWVOxford and mail to Membership P.O. Box 504, Oxford, OH 45056

