



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

October, 2013

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Save the Dates

- **Monday, October 14**, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Knolls: Candidates Forum.
- **Tuesday, November 5**, 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.: Election Day.
- **Monday, November 11**, 7 p.m. Benton Hall, Room 100, Miami University: *What's New at MU in Energy Conservation?*
- **Saturday, November 9**, Elizabeth Cady Stanton Day, Celebration to be announced.
- **Monday, January 13**, Update of local Natural Resources position, time and place, TBA
- **Saturday, February 8**, Program Planning, at Marcum Center, time TBA



Voter Service is in Full Swing!

VIG News

Thanks to Debbie Gross and Donna Broshear of *The Oxford Press*, the 2013 Voter Information Guide was included in the October 4 issue of *The Oxford Press*. Thank you to internet gatherer Rhonda Jackson and some persistence on my part, we have responses from all 19 candidates. You will find City Council Candidates, Township Trustees, a Township Fiscal Officer and Issue 2 covered in the VIG. Rhonda Jackson, Jane Jackson

and Sandi Woy Hazleton all helped with the proof reading. We will gather to deliver these around town the second week of October.

Candidates Forum

Even more gratifying is the willingness of **all** of these candidates to take part in the **Candidates Forum Monday, October 14, 7 to 9 at the Knolls of Oxford**. Because several of the candidates are running unopposed, their participation is most welcome. Please come to the forum as we can have a very frank and open discussion on present and future city, township and school board concerns. **Please email me if you can help host.** pdana@woh.rr.com

Issue 2, Oxford City Charter Amendment

Issue 2 is a Charter Amendment on which only City of Oxford residents will vote. This issue which will bring into line the date of filing petitions to run for City Council with the surrounding local and state jurisdictions. Currently, City Council petitions must be turned into the Board of Elections 75 days before Election Day. All other local and state offices stipulate that petitions must be turned in 90 days before an election.

Voter Registration Thank you

Thank you to Becky Quay and Rhonda Jackson who organized Voter Registration on Women's Equality Day, at the Pig Roast and at Kroger.

Prue Dana, Co-Chair Voter Service



Kids Voting Talawanda Underway

Kids Voting is set up for a vote in the schools the day before the election. This is the third year that Kids Voting Talawanda will organize and carry out the election. We are emphasizing City and Township government this year. The kids' issue, for opinion only, is whether or not students can have cell phones turned on in school.

Prue Dana, Co-Chair Voter Service



League Supports Local Issue 2

Based on the local Government position of "Supporting the Home Rule Charter for the City of Oxford" adopted in 1963, the board of directors voted to support Local Issue 2, amending Section 9.03 Nominations of the City Charter.

The current 9.03 Nominations section of the Charter of the City of Oxford determines when individuals must submit petitions if they wish to run for Oxford City Council. It states: **"Petitions shall be filed with the Board of Elections at least 75 days before the day of the election."**

The **proposed amendment** to Section 9.03 of Article Nine of the Charter of the City of Oxford states **Petitions shall be filed with the Board of Elections in accordance with the current laws of the State of Ohio.**

This amendment would change the filing deadline for those who run for Oxford City Council to conform to deadlines for other state and local offices, as determined by State of Ohio Revised Code. The filing deadline in the Ohio Revised Code is currently 90 days before the day of election.

The Oxford League supports the proposed amendment because it would align the filing deadline for the City of Oxford with the State of Ohio laws. This would eliminate confusion and conform to other State of Ohio candidate deadlines.

Mary Jo Clark, Co-President



Great Lakes Ecosystem Update

LWV Ohio recently adopted by concurrence their new position on the Great Lakes Ecosystem. The LWV Lake Michigan ILO, which undertook the concurrence campaign, reports “ALL EIGHT GREAT LAKES STATES have voted to adopt the Michigan Ecosystem Position. We can now act as a united region when responding to Great Lakes issues as they arise. This is a landmark event in the history of LWVUS, and we are eager to establish a system whereby we can implement this newly acquired leverage!”

September 2013, Ohio League Leader Updates



What's New at Miami University in Energy Conservation?

On November 11, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 100, Benton Hall on the Miami University campus, the League of Women Voters of Oxford will be hosting a presentation on “*What's New at Miami University in Energy Conservation*”.

Robert Keller, University Architect Emeritus, will provide us with a summary of all of the changes that have been taking place at the university. Everyone has been watching with interest as new buildings go up on the main campus and on the Western campus, but few of us are aware of the incredible changes that these new buildings are bringing in terms of energy efficiency.

According to the *Miami Student* (February, 2013) “Miami University’s goal of reducing its energy use by 20 percent by 2014 is right on schedule.” All the new buildings will meet the “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design” (LEED) silver standards and the new Armstrong Student Center is expected to use 35% less energy than the Shriver Center.

Older residence halls, such as Elliot and Stoddard, have also been renovated to meet the more stringent goals set by the University. Each building has decreased its energy consumption from 2010 to 2013 by 61%.

If you have wondered what geothermal wells have meant for this effort and are interested in how the university is planning to have “green roofs” and less reliance on its coal-fired power plant, come to hear this very informative presentation.

Sandi Woy-Hazelton, Chair, Natural Resources

NOTE: *This is being held in Room 100 Benton. Parking is available behind Benton, on the street and in the Parking Garage.*



Fund Drive Scheduled for Fall

Finance Committee members are preparing the 2013 biennial Fund Drive to take place this Fall, when our major League activities make us most visible to the community.

For over 50 years, the League of Women Voters of Oxford has worked to encourage citizen participation in government. Nonpartisan voter service activities such as the Voter Information Guide and the Candidates Forum are prime examples of this effort. League members make these activities possible by donating their time, energy and creativity, in addition to dues.

As you know, LWVOx has many expenses that cannot be met by membership dues alone. Our basic dues go into the General Fund, and are not enough to cover the state and national League assessments. Some members have renewed membership at higher levels to assist.

An additional contribution can be made to the tax-exempt Education Fund or to the General Fund as part of the upcoming annual Finance Drive.

If you'd like more information, or to help with the fund drive, please contact Bill Renwick at wrenwick@miamioh.edu.

Bill Renwick, Finance Committee



Membership Committee Report

Judy Rymer, the Membership Committee Chair, reports that as of September 20, 2013, the Oxford League of Women Voters has had 49 membership renewals, 2 new members and 1 former member who rejoined.

If, for some reason, you have not renewed your membership, now is an excellent time to do so! If you cannot find the membership form sent to you in July, another copy and mailing information can be found at http://www.oxford.oh.lwvnet.org/join_form.html

Linda Simmons, Membership Committee



Member Spotlight on.....Rhonda Jackson

When did you join the League?

I joined the League in the fall of 2011.

Why did you join the Oxford League of Women Voters?

I joined to compliment my work at the Miami University Women's Center and as an opportunity to connect with women leaders in the Oxford community.

What is your current role with the League?

I am co-chair with Prue Dana in Voter Services.

What issues would you like to see the League focusing on?

Educating voters is one of my main focuses. I advocate for voters' rights by helping to engage individuals in participating in public elections, one of the only real rights that we have as citizens. I've been voting since I was 18 and have never missed an election. Also, engaging new student voters in the process is important, as well as, making voting easier and more accessible for everyone.

What do you find most rewarding about being a member of the League?

I am so empowered by the passion of the members of the League that I've met, giving so much of their personal time. It is rewarding to watch Co-President Mary Jo Clark conduct a meeting with order and parliamentary procedure where everyone has a voice at the table. It is very open and welcome to all.

What do you think is the biggest issue that voters face?

The biggest issue is voter registration, restricting voter's availability to vote and making it more difficult. It's important to educate new voters of all ages to know that every vote counts regardless of the Party.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

Not at this point, possibly after retirement.



What interests do you have outside of the League?

My biggest interest outside the League is my grandchildren, my two granddaughters and one grandson, and empowering them to know that there are no limitations as to what they can do in life. I also work for advocacy around LGBTQ issues and have served on the board of the 1809 LGBT Alumni Association for the past 2 years.

Linda Simmons, Membership Committee



Women’s Equality Day and Registration at Miami University

For the third year, the League of Women Voters of Oxford and Miami University, Women's Center co-sponsored a voter registration event on August 26, 2013, celebrating “Women's Equality Day”. This year due to the outstanding efforts of the League of Women Voters of Oxford, the Women's Center staff and a beautiful sunny, warm August day, we registered 84 new voters during the 5 hour event. Not only did we register 84 new voters but Joan McQueen and other members of the League dressed in period clothing to educate the students on the importance of Women's Equality Day and the struggles women suffragists endured to obtain the right to vote through the passage of the "19th Amendment to the Constitution" , granting women the right to vote.

The day was celebrated in grand style not only ensuring students future engagement in the voting process but also by looking back at the role women played in creating equal voting rights for all women in our country.

Rhonda Jackson Co-Chair, Voter Service



Video Gift to Lane Public Library, Oxford

A video to encourage Ohio residents who are deaf or hearing impaired to register to vote was presented to the Lane Library of Oxford by Mary Jo Clark, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Oxford. Accepting the donation is Justyn Rampa, Assistant Branch Manager of the library. Titled "Vote: It's Your Right," the video is narrated in American Sign Language. It walks viewers through the simple steps of voter registration and answers such questions as where to register, what identification is needed, how to register by mail, how to receive assistance at the polls, and how to vote absentee. The video was produced by the League of Women Voters, Greater Dayton Area.

Toni Saldivar, Chair, Publicity

