



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

March, 2013

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Save the Dates

- **Tuesday, March 19**, in Columbus: LWVOhio Statehouse Day
- **Wednesday, March 20, 7 p.m.** at LCNB Community Room:
Safety in Our Schools: A Community Forum
- **Tuesday, April 30, 7 p.m.** at LCNB Community Room: LWVOxford Annual Convention
- **Saturday & Sunday, May 4 & 5**, in Cleveland: LWVOhio Convention



Forum on School Safety on March 20, 2013

Nothing is more important to parents than knowing their children are in a safe learning environment. How safe are our Oxford area schools? Can we make them safer?

To address such questions, the Oxford League will hold a public meeting, "Safety in Our Schools: A Community Forum," on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, in the LCNB Community Room on Park Place, Oxford, beginning at 7:00 PM.

Four experts will address issues of school safety and will engage questions and comments from attendees at the gathering. All viewpoints and opinions from the audience will be welcome.

The panelists are Kelly Spivey, Superintendent of the Talawanda School District; Tom York, Principal of Talawanda High School; Tom Horvath of the Oxford Police Department; and Glenn Muschert, Associate Professor of Sociology, Miami University. Dr. Muschert's scholarly interests focus on the study of crime and social problems. His publications have dealt with social control through surveillance technologies and with mass media framing of high profile crimes, such as school shootings and missing persons. He is the editor of

School Shootings: Mediatized Violence in the Global Age (2012) and *Responding to School Violence: Confronting the Columbine Effect* (2013).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come.

Kathleen Knight Abowitz
Co-Program Vice President



Talawanda School District: A New Kramer Elementary

The Middle School has been built. Marshall Elementary added onto. Bogan Elementary has opened and the new High School is fully functioning. Now it is Kramer Elementary's turn in the Talawanda Master Plan! Monday, February 18, the Talawanda School Board voted to "start the paper work" that would use alternative funding for a new Kramer School. This alternative funding, COP's (Certificates of Participation), if passed by the school board, would essentially fund the building of a new school in the next year rather than wait for 4 to 7 years when we might receive state funding promised to us when the high school was completed.

Here are two websites where you can follow the presentation of Mike Davis, the Talawanda School District Treasurer. A committee will be formed to explore the placement of Kramer in the district. This decision will be made by May of this year.

<http://talawanda.net/sites/default/files/news/new-kramer-reg-session-2-11-13-msd.pdf>

<http://talawanda.net/sites/default/files/news/new-kramer-work-session-2-18-13-msdcj-final.pdf>

Prue Dana
Voter Service Vice President



Statehouse Day - March 19th - Featuring Ohio's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court!

LWVOhio announced that the Keynote Speaker for Statehouse Day is the Honorable Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. In addition to Chief Justice O'Connor, the program includes many of this spring's hottest issues — the state government budget and tax plan, changes to education funding, implementation of the federal health care law, and the latest updates on redistricting reform.

Registration is open, and you can opt to attend the entire day or just come for lunch with Chief Justice O'Connor. For more information or to RSVP contact <http://www.lwvohio.org>.

Please let me know if you are interested in going Mary Jo Clark <mailto:clarkmj1@miamioh.edu> 523-6515 so we can coordinate transportation.



Local Convention Reminder

The Oxford LWV local convention will be Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the LCNB Community Room. I hope you can all attend. Not only will we doing League business like passing a budget and electing officers, we will also have some social time before the business meeting. The annual convention packet that includes information for the meeting will be sent to you at the end of March.

Mary Jo Clark
Co-Vice President



Energizing Democracy – What Would Alice Do?: LWVOhio Convention

What can Alice Paul, a true leader in the fight for women's and civil rights, teach us as we explore effective ways to influence public policy and provide voter services, recruit and retain members, develop leadership and communicate – all of which are topics we will explore at our 60th State Convention? LWVOhio is finalizing energizing speakers and informative, timely workshops, and more information will be available soon.

Mark your calendars to join other Leaguers May 4-5 in Cleveland for the 60th LWVOhio Convention. Registration rates, how to register, and other event details will be announced in the Final Call to Convention that will go out to League presidents—as well as posted on the LWVO website <http://www.lwvohio.org> in late March.

There is money in the Oxford LWV budget to pay some expenses for attendees. Please let Mary Jo Clark <mailto:clarkmj1@miamioh.edu> 523-6515 know if you are interested in going



Human Trafficking: Summary of February All-member Conference Call

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us on Tuesday, February 5th for our monthly all-member conference call. Our guest speaker was state Representative Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo), who has been leading Ohio's efforts to fight human trafficking.

Also known as modern-day slavery, trafficking has become a major human rights problem in Ohio and elsewhere. LWV Ohio adopted a state study of human trafficking at our 2011 Convention. In 2012, Leagues across Ohio participated in a consensus process to form a League position on this issue. Consensus was reached, and the LWVO Board formally adopted a position on human trafficking last year (available at www.lwvohio.org in the 'Advocacy' section).

Representative Fedor has been leading the charge to address the problem of human trafficking in Ohio. Last year, Governor Kasich signed her landmark human trafficking legislation (HB 262 – the “Safe Harbor” bill) into law. However, as Representative Fedor told us during our call, there is still much work to be done. Representative Fedor said that Ohio has a real problem with human trafficking, and that we need a comprehensive, ongoing solution. She also shared some frightening statistics:

- Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world. Drug trafficking is second.
- The average age of a human trafficking victim is 13-years-old, and they are trafficked for an average of seven years.

One of the big challenges is recognizing human trafficking. Representative Fedor said that if a person is in a situation where they cannot escape, that is modern day slavery – i.e. human trafficking. Many people think it cannot happen to anyone they know, when in reality it is a widespread problem. Education and awareness are needed for our youth who are particularly vulnerable.

Another challenge is making sure the right people are punished. Very often, the practice has been to blame or punish the person who is being prostituted (the human trafficking victim), rather than seeking out and punishing the person who is doing the trafficking (the 'seller' or 'pimp' and the person who is paying for sex—the 'john'). Representative Fedor described addressing this change in legal focus as a paradigm shift that was necessary in order to combat the problem. One of the big accomplishments of Rep. Fedor's HB 262 is to shift that focus by offering protection for victims of human trafficking and increasing penalties for those who 'own' or 'buy' these modern-day slaves.

While HB 262 is a good start, there is more work ahead. We need to keep raising awareness about human trafficking and how to recognize it, expand services provided to victims, and strengthen laws designed to catch and punish traffickers. It will take a whole community effort.

Representative Fedor's office has provided a list of actions that anyone can take to help raise awareness about and put a stop to human trafficking. You can find this list of actions and additional information about human trafficking on the LWVOhio website – www.lwvohio.org – on the 'human trafficking' page under the 'Advocacy' section.

Carrie Davies
LWVOhio Executive Director

Membership List

The latest membership list accompanies this Voter in a separate file.