



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

January, 2014

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Save the Dates

- **Monday, January 13**, 7:00 PM, at Oxford Country Club, 6200 Contreras Road, Oxford: Update of local Natural Resources position,
- **Saturday, February 8**, 10 AM-2 PM at Marcum Center: Program Planning.
- **March**: Two meetings (times and places TBA)—a public meeting and a members only meeting—to discuss and find consensus for the LWVUS Agriculture Study.
- **Tuesday, April 22**: Annual Convention (time and place TBA)



Update on LWV Oxford's Positions on Natural Resources January 13, 2014

On January 13, 2014 we will meet at the Oxford Country Club at 7:00pm. This meeting is focused on updating our positions on Natural Resources. We adopted a new position on Energy last year and we will discuss the actions we will be taking in the near future under that position. In addition, we will have an update by Sandi Woy-Hazleton, Prue Dana and Devona Miller on our local program positions pertaining to water, solid waste and land use. We believe that since some of these positions were adopted as long ago as 1983, we need to review and update these positions in light of technological, regulatory and institutional changes. The purpose of the update is to clarify our understanding of the current situation and the ability of our League to take actions that we deem necessary. Our discussion at this meeting will identify any areas that we feel need to be changed, strengthened or dropped from our positions.

Refreshments, coffee, hot chocolate and cookies, will be provided!

Sandra Woy-Hazleton, Natural Resources



A Most Special Event – Planning and Social – set for Saturday, February 8

Our 2014 planning session and annual League social is Saturday, February 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. at The Marcum Hotel and Conference Center.

Desiring both fellowship and work, the Board invites all League members, their guests, and interested public to participate and/or watch League grassroots in action.

Wishing this event to be an opportunity to recruit new members, Board members are telephoning prospective new members and offering to pick up the guest. All League members are urged to do the same or to call Judy Rymer, Membership Chair, for her help. (513/523-9273 or judyrymer@gmail.com). The Board will pay the costs for guest lunches.

Our event begins with coffee at 10:00 am followed by group discussions of U.S. and Oxford League positions in four areas (portfolios): Representative Government, International Relations, Social Policy, and Natural Resources.

Subcommittees working with our Portfolio Directors will review all U.S. and Oxford League positions and determine the top 3-6 principles most critical for our discussion and action on February 8. Shortly, through a separate email, you will have the opportunity to choose the portfolio group in which you would like most to be a participant.

The goal of the February meeting is to discuss and assess for relevance and progress both national and local positions of the League. We will identify possible future studies of specific issues and will make recommendations to the U.S. and Oxford Leagues' Board of Directors.

Toasting our work to influence public policy, we will celebrate with wine. Non-alcoholic drink will be available.

Lunch prepared by Executive Chef Ginny Thiell and arranged by Marcum Event Planner Jane Gaitskill– our League Treasurer - will be served at 1:00 pm. The cost of lunch is \$13.00, paid in advance; \$15, paid at the door. Vegetarian and other special diets are available with advance notice.

Again invitations will be separately emailed (US mail, if no email). Membership Committee and Board members will be telephoning to emphasize the invitation and encourage attendance.

Sally Southard, Vice President, Program



Agriculture Study Committee Report

The first meeting of the Agriculture Study Committee was December 9. Members include four farmers, one water quality expert, and two long-standing active members of the League. Their next meeting, January 7, will be to focus on positive as well as negative aspects of G.M.O.'s (genetically modified organism).

These volunteers of experts and interested citizens are studying, discussing, and ultimately preparing a report in early March for our discussion about relevant consensus questions that the League of Women Voters of the United States has proposed.

In early March, there will be a public meeting to hear this report. Later that month, LWV Oxford will meet in closed session to consider the consensus questions from the LWVUS.

We are grateful for the time and thought on our behalf that these committee members are contributing to the Oxford League: Debra Bowles, Karen DeLue, Jane and Jack Fryman, Sibyl Miller, Bill Renwick, Jim Rubenstein, and Harv Roehling.

Sally Southard, Vice President, Program



Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program

“Growing the League, Making Democracy Work”

Two of our LWVOxford Board members, Arianne Hartsell-Gundy and Eva Rodríguez-González participated last June (June 22-23, Columbus, OH) in an initial two-day training session for new Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Teams from around Ohio. They met with LWVUS and LWVO coaches on best practices proven to increase membership, engage members, develop leaders and become more visible in the community. Karen Rainey, LWV Delaware County has been assigned as a MLD coach for LWV Oxford since the MLD program took place last June. LWV Oxford appreciates her commitment and support with our local LWV Oxford initiatives. As we continuing to reflect upon our LWV Oxford work, we invite all LWV Oxford to engage in our conversation regarding membership. We would really appreciate if you share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. What is it about the LWV Ox that makes you willing to renew your membership each year?
2. What would you do if the LWV Ox had more members?
3. What if the LWV Ox had a larger budget? How would that affect you?

Please send your comments to Eva Rodríguez-González at evitarg@gmail.com

Thank you for your time and continuous support!

Eva Rodríguez-González, Membership



Government Services Directory Update Needed—and Needs Your Help!

The Government Services Directory needs to be updated to the 2014 edition. Needed are 3 or 4 Leaguers who will check the information listed for the revision. This involves looking up agencies on the internet and recording the information.

We'll divide up the sections: national, state, local, Butler County, City, School District and social services. Our goal is to do the checking by mid January and have it printed and ready for distribution by February 1.

Please let Rhonda Jackson jacksorj@miamioh.edu or 513-593-2046 know if you might spend a morning or afternoon in January doing this research for the 2014 Government Service Directory.

Rhonda Jackson, Voter Services Chair



Finance Drive a Success!

So far we have received donations totaling \$2,579, making this the most successful fund drive in recent years. [note: I do not have data going back more than a few years; it is possible that this is the most successful fund drive ever. Is anyone able to check on that?]

We have received 35 contributions, including

\$1,729 to the Education Fund,

\$250 to the General Fund, and

\$600 to our newly established Endowment Fund maintained by the Oxford Community Foundation.

These contributions will make it possible for the Oxford League to continue its essential voter-education work in the coming years. Thank you very much to all our generous donors!

Bill Renwick, Finance Drive Chair



Spotlight on LWV Ox Members

Did you know that two of our own are an important and integral part of Oxford City Council?

Kate Rousmaniere is Oxford's newly elected VICE-MAYOR

Edna Southard is Oxford's newest CITY COUNCIL MEMBER and she received the most votes in the last election!



An Interview with New Member Judith Rymer

When did you join the League?

I joined in January, 2013 in Oxford. In the 1970s I had been a member in San Bernardino, California for a few years until my work at the university consumed all my time!

Why did you join the Oxford League of Women Voters?

What is your current role with the League? I am currently the chair of the membership committee. The League appealed to me not only because of the work it does but because so many of the leaders in the organization are women I respect and admire. I consider it a privilege to collaborate with people who are so dedicated to the community and to addressing issues that stretch beyond Oxford.



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

I think continued emphasis on voting rights is critical at a time when many changes in elections practices at the state level seem geared toward making voting less accessible.

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

For me, membership in League is an amazing learning process. Every time I attend a board meeting or a general membership meeting, I learn more and more about important issues as well as community needs and progress in addressing those needs. The September meeting on transportation is an excellent example of that.

What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

I think our country faces serious challenges in striking an appropriate balance between security/privacy and freedom. We all seem to want a system that offers both guarantees. Analyzing the issues and candidates' views on those issues is one outcome of voter education, one of the real strengths of the League of Women Voters.

Are you involved in any other community organizations?

Right now, the League is my main focus. Until recently, I was on the Board and campaign committees for United Way and was the advisor to Gamma Phi Beta Sorority at Miami. I'm an active member of the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic organization that provides financial support for women pursuing higher education. My longtime passion as a university professor and sorority advisor was mentoring young adults with a focus on helping young women achieve their potential.

What interests do you have outside of the League?

Fitness, vegetarian cooking (relatively new for me) reading mysteries, taking care of a dog and two cats and hanging out with my husband, Glenn! We also offer bed and breakfast in our home to Miami visitors.

Linda Simmons, Membership