



*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 11, 2016**

**Today is the last day to register or make changes in registration if you plan to vote this November!**



**Programs planned by League of Women Voters of Oxford 2016/2017**

A BROWN BAG LUNCH MEETING, entitled, " Analysis of an Election," will take place on **NOVEMBER 14**, at Patterson Place on Western Campus, with the exact time still to be determined.

A RECEPTION for our local, newly elected officials will take place on **DECEMBER 7**, from 5 to 7 pm, at the Oxford Community Arts Center.

Our JANUARY program is entitled, "LOCAL EDUCATION: How do we identify, perceive, and resolve issues of underserved groups?". It will take place on **JANUARY 18, 2017**, from 7:30 to 9 pm, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in the Undercroft. ( Enter from Poplar St.)

On **FEBRUARY 11**, we will hold our LWVOx PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING, from 10 am to 12:30 pm, in the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Undercroft. ( Enter from Poplar St.)

A program on LAND USE---PLANNING: Parks, Trails, and Recreation, will take place on **MARCH 15**, from 7:30 to 9 pm, again in the Church Undercroft. (Enter from Poplar St.)

We are also exploring an additional program for March, Women's History Month, centering on a guest speaker---the great, great, great grandson of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.



## From LWV Oxford Co-President, Sibyl Harris Miller

As Election Day, November 8, fast approaches, the members of our League of Women Voters of Oxford are energized to register voters and ensure a large turnout at the polls. Our non-partisan mission---Making Democracy Work---carries a powerful message, enhancing our influence and extending our reach throughout the wider Oxford community.

Our members make a major contribution to our shared civic life in numerous ways. From time to time, some of them are recognized by other organizations for their stellar efforts to improve our community. We are very proud of our longtime member and editor of *The Voter*, Alice Laatsch, upon the occasion of her being honored by the United Way of Oxford, Ohio, and Vicinity, Inc. She was presented with the 2016 Live United Award in a ceremony on the evening of August 30, at Talawanda High School. This award was given to Alice because of her extensive volunteer efforts that have touched the lives of so many of our neighbors over so many years.

Another one of our members, Jacque Rioja Velarde, has recently received the Governor's Award from the Ohio Latino Affairs Commission. Her work in implementing innovative educational practices has resulted in highly successful multicultural learning experiences, breaking down cultural barriers and engendering understanding and mutual respect on a global level. We are also fortunate to have Jacque manage the League's Facebook page, enabling those of us on Facebook to follow and comment on the topics and activities in which our Oxford League is involved.



With members like Alice and Jacque, our LWVOx is well equipped to move forward as a force for community wellbeing and informed citizen participation in the democratic process. We are pleased that our League is seen as an invaluable resource for the Oxford community and as a membership organization worthy of the time, talents, and energy of its members. Please tell your friends about the League, and invite them to join us at one of our upcoming events this year. And remember that all League members are invited to attend our next Board Meeting, Tuesday, October 11, at 10:30 am in the Board Room on the main floor of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, East Walnut St., Oxford.

And, of course, please be sure to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

*Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization*



## Voter Service Report

Whew!!! I cannot remember an election season like this. We can be proud of the fact that we worked seamlessly with publicity and program to register and inform well over 200 voters. The Oxford League partnered with NAACP, Miami University, College Democrats and College Republicans, and, importantly, with the Board of Elections and with Cox media to register Voters. We helped create VOTE411 for our district and produced an up to date Voters Information Guide (VIG). It began with the Independence Day Parade and it has not ceased. Thanks goes to Becky Quay the “go to” person for registration forms and information. Thanks to members who volunteered for the all of the coverage at events.

As it is now October 11, the cutoff for registering to vote in the November 8 election, “all we have to do” is encourage all of those new registrations and old registrations to VOTE.

I think a discussion of the **Voters Information Guide** is in order. You will notice that issue is much more “meaty” than in years past. This is due to the State League giving us additional questions and our funding of a

bigger Voters Information Guide. When this duplicates what is online with the Vote411, it may not be worth the effort. However we had very good cooperation with the Journal News Cox Media and the design of the VIG.

**The Candidate Forum** also needs to be reviewed. We had only 5 candidates come this year. Many of the 13 to 15 in our area were running unopposed. Yet I think we made those candidates really work with our “Speed Candidacy” and people who attended learned a lot. This style of Forum is much less labor intensive and very easy to organize. Forty-Five attended the Forum. Your feedback is welcome.

**Kids Voting** is the emphasis now. We have 7 schools involved now and look forward to the active participation of the Talawanda School System, McGuffey and Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School. The Voter Information Guide is critical to our program, as we know it.

**Help needed:** We need to get Voter Information Guides out. Please call Prue if you can distribute a few in the course of the week. Because they came early, we have distributed them piecemeal.

Thank you to the entire League.

*Prue Dana, Voter Service VP.*



**The League of Women Voters of Oxford held its first meeting of the 2016-17 year on September 21** at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Our topic “Communication in Our Town: How do we find out ‘What is Happening?’” drew an audience of close to 50 members and citizens.

The first part of the meeting provided the audience with a chance to identify what they thought were the difficulties in advertising organizational, church, recreational, and community events in the last few years as the **Oxford Press** has diminished in its coverage and its subscription base. It was clear that the number of outlets for communication has expanded, but there continues to be frustration as to the “fragmented” nature of information dissemination, the lack of coordination, the confusion about setting priorities, and the means to reach people who do not have access to computers.

The need to make adjustments to how we access print and digital media was addressed by six panelists who represented our local newspapers. **Professor Annie-Laurie Blair**, who works often with the Cincinnati Enquirer and supervises journalism interns at Miami, provided a background of the changes and challenges facing local newspapers. **Bob Ratterman** and **Amy Buzyncki** of Cox Media (Journal-News); **Eddie Mowen** and **Leslie Collins** from the *Eaton Register-Herald*, **James Steinbauer**, editor of the *Miami Student* addressed specifically their efforts to provide Oxford with a print newspaper.

While the *Journal-News* has maintained the Oxford Press as a four-page Sunday supplement, the Eaton group, which publishes twice a week, is seeking to become a “local” paper for western Butler County. It was noted that the *Miami Student* is reducing its print edition to once a week.

The second panel consisted of six representatives from community leaders. **Jessica Greene**, Executive Director of the Oxford Visitors Bureau, explained their efforts to provide a comprehensive calendar at [www.enjoyoxford.org](http://www.enjoyoxford.org). **Kelli Riggs** of the Chamber of Commerce also noted their support for a unified way to disseminate information in the area. **Joan Potter Sommer**, Executive Director from Oxford Seniors, noted that they still provide a paper newsletter to get information to their members. **Holli Morrish**, Director of Communications and Public Engagement for Talawanda Schools provided information on a service that she oversees, that is, sending PDFs of fliers from organizations to all the 2500 families within the school district. **Doug Elliott** explained the information that is available about the City on its extensive website.

We want to identify the problems people perceive, discuss alternatives, and generate possible solutions. **John Skillings** of the Oxford Community Foundation wrapped up by suggesting that a grant might be written to support a full-time reporter or coordinator to provide comprehensive coverage of Oxford events. Perhaps centralized kiosks could be used more effectively, many other suggestions were made, which means we must continue to meet with these organizations to make progress in this direction.



Lifetime League member **Carolyn Auble** (left) and her husband Don participated in the 2016 Candidates Forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Oxford on October 5 at The Knolls of Oxford. Carolyn was one of the founders of the Oxford chapter sixty-two years ago.

Also shown at this roundtable discussion is Suzi Rubin (center) Democrat, who is running for Ohio State House Representative, District 53. Other candidates for elected office who attended and who moved from table to table to engage voters' questions were: Bill Coley, Republican, seeking reelection to Ohio Senate, District 4, and his challenger, John Kinne, Democrat; Steven Fought, Democrat, seeking election as Representative to US Congress, 8th District; and Nancy Nix, seeking reelection as Butler County Treasurer.

Prue Dana, Co-President for Voter Service, organized and moderated the event as well as prepared the *Voters Information Guide* (shown on the table), the nonpartisan publication Oxford area voters have come to depend on for election information. More than forty-five people came to the Forum.



## **Your Membership Is Valued**

Our current paid membership is 75 smart and engaged citizens. Members will be emailed/US mailed the list twice annually: by November 10 and by February 1.

All persons are welcome to join the League. Now is a great time to talk with friends and acquaintances about your good experience about the League and urge them to join. Please contact me with persons you would like to be contacted ([sally@southard.net](mailto:sally@southard.net) or 523- 5511).

Your membership in the League of Women Voters is at three levels: local, state, and national: i.e., you are on the roster of LWV Oxford, of LWV Ohio, and of THE League (LWVUS). As a member through Oxford, you should be receiving monthly newsletters and ALERTS from LWVO (the League of Ohio). If you are not receiving this monthly information, please contact me. (You can easily unsubscribe.)

*Sally Southard, Membership Director*



## **Oxford League's *Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)* Team**

Funded by the LWVO and LWVUS, the Oxford League has sent four members to Columbus over the past three years to receive training in MLD by the LWVO. Currently serving on the Oxford League team are Marcia Waller, Linda Williams, Sibyl Miller, and Sally Southard. Monthly conference calls with our LWVO Coach Deb Peluso are discussions of ways the Oxford League can add value to a person choosing and being an active member of the League. If you are interested in becoming a future team member, we welcome your contacting one of us.

*Sally Southard, MLD Coordinator*



## **Membership Committee Works for You**

Working with the Sandi Woy-Hazelton, President of Program, Judy Rymer, Co-Chair, determines the logistics and hospitality needed for each meeting. The Committee then sets up and closes the room arrangement. At designated times, the Committee provides refreshments for meetings and receptions.

On your behalf, the Membership Committee welcomes and offers hospitality to our members and guests. At each League meeting, Committee members are *Greeters* who welcome and ask each to SIGN IN and make a nametag and *Ambassadors* who introduce new members and guests to active League members. Ambassadors give guests a League brochure and invite them to join the League.

Guests receive an email with a calendar of League events and invite guests to attend and join the League. To welcome newcomers, Committee members individually have coffee chats with a new member to talk about what is important to her/his choice to join the League and, through a personal notebook, to explain about the League.

Please thank: Jo McQueen (long great service, just retired), Pat Gifford (new), Rosie Pelphrey, Linda Simmons, Linda Williams, Gail Williamson (back to help), and Matt Ziegman (MU Student).

*Judy Rymer, Co-Chair, Logistics and Hospitality*  
*Sally Southard, Co-Chair, Administration*