



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

May, 2017

Help Wanted!

Some ways to Make Democracy Work!

1. Voter Service Contact Prue Dana at pdana@woh.rr.com

- walk in the 4th of July Freedom Festival Parade July 2, 6:30 p.m.
- register voters
- Kids Voting
- VOTE411

2. Help gather signatures on petitions to establish fair voting districts

Watch for information which will be shared as soon as the time is right. Sibyl Miller and Jenny Fisher will keep us updated.

3. Rejoin the League of Women Voters to help make your voice heard. Dues due by July 1, 2017. See the last page of this newsletter for a form and information.



Spring, 2017

To members of the League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio (LWVOx)

From Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization

We are living in a period of upheaval in civic life in America. One of the major strengths of the League is our ability to act locally, as well as on state and national levels, to carry out our Mission: Making Democracy Work. Our activism is needed now, perhaps more than ever before in our long history as a voice for responsible and active engagement in the complex enterprise of democracy!

Our major immediate initiative is the Fair Districts=Fair Elections Campaign, spearheaded by the LWVOhio. This campaign calls for an Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, creating a bi-partisan Districting Commission to redraw the US Congressional District boundaries throughout the state, reducing gerrymandering and

increasing fairness in voting, starting with the election of 2022. We are in the midst of conducting a petition drive to get signatures supporting this initiative being placed on the ballot as soon as possible. One of our newest members, Jennie Fisher, writes more about this crucial action elsewhere in this edition of the Voter, including information about the training provided for those of us who are circulating these vital petitions.

Another major issue for the League is the need for science to be upheld, especially in regard to climate change and preserving our natural resources, a longtime priority of the League throughout the nation and here in the greater Oxford community. I had the privilege of representing our League as a speaker at the very well-attended March for Science in Oxford on April 22. Many of our members were involved as marchers, holding very professional-looking LWVOx signs created and contributed by a new member, Fran Jackson, whose exemplary leadership as President of the Oxford NAACP adds greatly to our leadership expertise. Some of our members also served as speakers, including Mayor Kate Rousmaniere, Michelle Boone (a highly talented new member who is a scientist) and me. Below is an edited version of the remarks I gave on behalf of our League at the March for Science.

The Crucial Importance of Science

(Remarks at the *March for Science* by Sibyl Harris Miller, LWVOx, April 22, 2017, Oxford, Ohio)

The scientific community here in Oxford, and all around the nation, has the support of many civic organizations, including the highly regarded non-partisan, League of Women Voters of the US, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, and our own League of Women Voters of Oxford. As Co-President for the LWV of Oxford, I speak for our members when I say that we want everyone to know that the League respects and supports the importance of scientific evidence in informing public policy and governmental action at all levels of government--- federal, state, and local.

The League is especially concerned with natural resources and environmental protection, and for decades, has been a national and local leader working to preserve and defend our environment. Here in Oxford, the League was the key player in bringing renewable energy options to City residents, through the study of, and the advocacy for, the municipal aggregation initiative of a few years ago. We also support environmentally-conscious land use planning and active efforts to combat climate change, to impose limits on fracking, and to encourage sustainable agriculture. We have official positions on clean water and clean air. We take our positions, using the data-driven findings and conclusions of science.

The League views science as crucial to the workings of our American democracy. Thus, we are concerned by current attempts by some elected leaders to roll back the progress we have made, especially on renewable energy and the need for addressing climate change immediately. The LWV stands firmly for strong renewable energy standards and opposes attempts to slow or stop renewable energy development.

We see an alarming increase in the discrediting of scientific work and consensus, and want to make clear that the LWV promotes science-based policies and well-funded scientific work to uphold the common good and the public interest. The LWV offers a way to engage in local, state, and national political life, utilizing science, objective facts, and grass roots power to take part in active, responsible, and influential engagement in civic life.

Very soon the League will be launching a petition drive to put an Ohio Constitutional Amendment on the ballot throughout the state. Known as " Fair Districts-Fair Elections," the amendment is designed to reduce the partisan-laden gerrymandering of the US Congressional districts throughout Ohio. A more fair election process will allow Ohio citizens to choose Congress-members to represent us in Washington who value the centrality of science and data-driven decisions in public policy.

We celebrate science as an honest voice in the room and affirm the crucial importance of science in making democracy work.



Jo and Kathy: Maintaining History/Herstory/Our Story

The League of Women Voters in the United States will mark, on August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the of the Nineteenth Amendment, which gave women, after a seventy-two year political struggle, the Constitutional right to vote. Shown in the photo above on the left is Jo McQueen, Chair of LWV of Oxford

2020 Centennial Celebration Committee. With Jo is Kathy McMahon Klosterman, recently elected Director of the LWV Oxford Membership Committee. Jo and Kathy have worked together for many years. Long before they were members of the League, Jo and Kathy were active in The National Organization for Women (NOW). In 1974, Jo, Oxford business woman, helped found the NOW chapter in Butler County. 1978, Jo with Kathy, Miami University faculty, founded the Miami University/Oxford Chapter of NOW. Recently, Jo and Kathy worked with Jody Perkins, Digital Scholarship Librarian/ Center for Digital Scholarship at Miami University, to complete the first phase of their important project titled "Local Digital



Archives for NOW Chapters: Butler County and Miami/Oxford." This archive, a valuable resource for cultural history, is available not only to Miami students, but also to the public. The archive tells the story of NOW in our region from 1974 to the present. For more background on Jo and Kathy's work, see Linda Simmons' article on the LWVOx website [<http://oxford.oh.lwvnet.org/looksat.htm>] as it appeared in the *The Oxford Press* 13 March 2016: A3), titled "The League Looks at Women's History Month: Oxford Women Maintain the Local History of NOW." Below are links to the completed sections of the archive and explanatory texts as posted by Jody Perkins, on the Center for Digital Scholarship website.

Scrapbooks

<http://ulblcdmp01.lib.miamioh.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/butlernow>

Joanne McQueen, as a member of the Butler County (Ohio) chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and co-founder (with Kathy McMahon-Klosterman) of the Miami-Oxford NOW chapter, kept comprehensive scrapbooks (archives) of chapter related events, activities and publications from 1974-present. Joanne also created a mail order business, Fantastic Feminist Enterprises, which she documented extensively in a series of scrapbooks, also included in this collection. Note that some previously published materials are only partially digitized and are intended to serve only as pointers to the physical collection which will be held at The Smith Library of Regional History, 441 S. Locust Street, Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 523-3035 | fax (513) 523-6661 | sml@lanepl.org

Pop Culture

http://ulblcdmp01.lib.miamioh.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/butlernow_p

The collection began in 1974 with the Butler County (Ohio) chapter of the National Organization for Women. Buttons were used to engage people in conversations and to educate. For example, the 59-cent button when worn, elicited questions about what it meant. It represented that white women earned 59 cents for each dollar that a white male earned in the same job. It was a forerunner of 'equal pay for equal work' legislation. The t-shirts carried messages and were often worn at marches and protests. Buttons, t-shirts and jewelry were worn to indicate political positions at a glance and to prompt dialogue for education. The collection, donated by Joanne McQueen and Kathy McMahon-Klosterman (founders of the Miami-Oxford chapter of NOW), dates from the 1970's through the year 2000. The physical collection will be held at The Smith Library of Regional History,

441 S. Locust Street, Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 523-3035 | fax (513) 523-6661 | sml@lanepl.org

Multi-media

http://ulblcdmp01.lib.miamioh.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/butlernow_m

Long time feminist activists and National Organization for Women (NOW) members, Joanne McQueen and Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, each had radio programs on the local NPR station, WMUB (Southwest Ohio). Jo McQueen interviewed local women about their leadership, work or interests on her 53.4% Majority Report. This was the percentage of women in the U.S.A. population at the time. Kathy McMahon-Klosterman produced and hosted the first live call-in show on WMUB, titled Women About Women. She used the NOW Consciousness Raising (CR) guidelines for topics. Kathy had conducted CR groups for years in Oxford and believed that women who were afraid of the label ‘feminist’ and males who thought CR groups were about male bashing, would be better informed and educated by ‘eavesdropping’ on CR discussions. Kathy also had a monthly short show titled, Between the Wires. This was news of importance to women that was not covered on the UPI or AP wires. The physical collection will be held at The Smith Library of Regional History, 441 S. Locust Street, Oxford, OH 45056 (513) 523-3035 | fax (513) 523-6661 | sml@lanepl.org

Congratulations, Jo and Kathy, on decades of promoting women's engagement in public discourse as a means to empower women in our society.

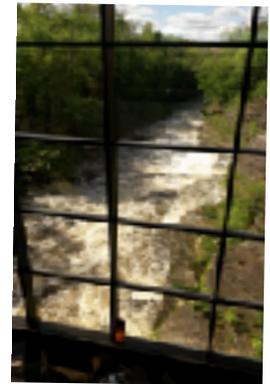
Toni Saldivar



2017 LWV- Ohio State Convention

By Jenny Fisher

The LWV-Ohio State Convention was held in the Sheraton in Cuyahoga Falls, OH. Our breakfast nook and many of our hotel rooms overlooked the rushing Cuyahoga River.



The LWV-Ohio State Convention was both informative and tremendously relevant to the current political environment. Of course, everyone was buzzing about the Fair Districts redistricting proposal. We also attended a seminar on Fake News. It was a look at the impacts of fake news on the recent election and voter vulnerabilities. Neither fake news nor the sharing of it on Facebook were new concepts in 2016 and the speaker gave us history on various (ridiculous) headlines from the past. We discussed “confirmation bias” and the fact that readers are more likely to 1) believe and then 2) share fake news when it fits into their already conceived notations.

The Kettering Foundation hosted a session titled “where have all the voters gone?” The speaker started the session with a “joke” that he heard from a friend. “Americans will cross the ocean to fight and die for democracy. Americans will not cross the street to cast a ballot for democracy.” Of course, no one in the room nor the speaker found that to be funny... and there were many groans. He shared some statistics on voter turnout with us and also gave an overview of the Kettering Foundation’s mission and the topic guides for politicians that they produce. He had an offer for the local chapters of the LWV. He was interested in forming a partnership with LWV to conduct research into *why* America is currently struggling with low voter turnout numbers, the underlying reasons, and possible solutions. The Kettering Foundation and LWV would then

cosponsor the topic guide—the publication that would be produced. In order to conduct this kind of research, we would organize focus groups that involved members of our community. We would find these people at the library, in churches, various gathering places. Each of these individuals would read a printout created by the Kettering Foundation and then participate in a focus group moderated (and kept civil) by a trained moderator. The National LWV is interested in the topic and advised him to approach Ohio since our voters are fairly representative of the nation.

The convention offered multiple sessions on climate change. By the end of the weekend, several members of the convention were ready to support a League position on climate change. It did not pass the vote. Everyone in the room appreciated the seriousness of the issue, but many members felt the local League chapters needed to do more work on developing the issue. The issue was not “establishing that climate change is real.” The issue was “how our government should be responding to it.” Towards the end of the convention, members were networking to figure out who might be interested in working together on this. One of the movers and shakers is a retired professor from a natural resources and environmental policy science department—she’s in the Hudson chapter. The Oberlin chapter is also interested. I passed out my contact information with the thought that this might interest our Natural Resource committee.

Kent State was also shaking things up during the voting sessions. They had proposed a study on “public health” in Ohio in preparation for creating a League state position. Many people were opposed to their effort as they felt that the “health care” position was already expansive enough. Kent State discussed the differences between “public health” and “health care” and maintained that they wanted to do a study and could use resources at the university. The votes were close but they will be moving forward with their study



Sibyl Miller, Co-President for Organization and **Jenny Fisher**, LWVOx delegate to the recent LWV Ohio state convention, lead discussion May 10 on participating in Fair Districts Ohio petition campaign to end gerrymandering in Ohio.



Fair Districts Fair Elections

The Fair Districts= Fair Election Coalition is bubbling with excitement. The citizen's initiative that it is spearheading is underway. The Fair Districts=Fair Election proposed ballot language is currently with Ohio's Attorney General, Mike DeWitt. He has until Wednesday, May 24th, to either approve it or deny it. From there, the language will be sent to the state's Ballot Commission to be reviewed and approved within 10 business days. After completing this crucial step, the Coalition can begin printing and distributing the petitions.

Oxford's local chapter of the LWV has been a beehive of activity. Jenny Fisher was the chapter's voting delegate at the LWV-Ohio state convention. Jenny was trained on Fair Districts and given pointers on steps to organize locally. Sibyl Miller held a meeting amongst various League members and community organizers to begin to talk about the efforts and to plan steps forward. The League organizers for the effort—Jenny Fisher, Sibyl Miller, Sandi Hoy-Hazleton, Toni Saldivar, and Prue Dana—have started to gather some of the necessary paperwork. A “phone tree” structure has been created that describes who the point people will be for our partnering groups. Sandi has been printing off precinct maps and Toni has been gathering a list of local festivals and events where we could collect signatures.

The impact of the Fair Districts amendment is expected to be significant. The following bullet points capture some of the proposal's most important concepts.

- Congressional districts will be drawn by a bipartisan body, the Ohio Redistricting Commission. This is the same commission that was created to draw fair state legislative districts under the new rules passed as Issue 1 in 2015.
- Maps cannot be drawn to favor or disfavor a political party or candidate.
- Districts must keep communities together and compact.
- The district map-drawing process must be open, transparent, and accountable to the public.

We'll begin the petition-circulating and signature-gathering stage as soon as the petitions are approved and printed. This is an important and crucial step toward ending gerrymandering in Ohio and getting the voices back to the voters.



Looking for something “fun” and vital for the Summer?

- We need League people who will **walk** in the **4th of July Freedom Festival Parade July 2, 6:30 p.m.** If you can do the Parade, please let Prue Dana know to get the details.
- We will also be **registering voters** both uptown at the conclusion of the Parade and at the Community Park on July 3 and at other occasions during the course of the summer.
- If you are interested in **Kids Voting**, that is also a preparation activity.
- As usual, we will be working on the **VOTE411** materials throughout the summer.

Contact Prue Dana at pdana@woh.rr.com Many “hands” are needed!



NOTE: DRAFT Pending Approval at the 2018 Convention

**Minutes of the League of Women Voters, Oxford Ohio (LWVOx)_
Board Meeting and Consensus Meeting
Open to Full Membership
At Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford Ohio
Wednesday, April 5, 2017 10:30 am-12:15 pm**

Present: Prue Dana, Sibyl Miller, Sally Southard, Bill Miller, Harv Roehling, Toni Saldivar, Sandi Woy-Hazleton

Welcome and Call to Order 10:30 AM

1. Copies of the agenda for today’s meeting and minutes from the 3/1/17 meeting were presented. A motion for approval was made by Prue Dana and seconded by Sally Southard. Minutes and agenda were unanimously approved.
2. Financial Report--Treasurer, Ginny Scott reported electronically.
 - a. Accounts as of 3/22/17: General Fund balance: \$4088.97
Education Fund balance: \$2230.92
The Endowment balance: \$13,522.70
 - b. Sally moved and Sandi seconded the motion for approval of the budget.
Budget was unanimously approved.
3. Membership Committee Report , Sally Southard, Director of Membership
 - a There has been a great deal of interest in The League resulting in 3 new members—Marlene Hoffman, Michele Boone, and Jenny Fisher
 - b. The new Membership Renewal Form was shared. It was noted that it is similar to the form of Delaware County.
 1. There is a designation of the levels of membership: \$60 for individuals, \$100 for household, and \$15 a semester for students

2. There is an explanation of portions of dues that are tax deductible and lists possible options for giving such as a Gift to the Education Fund or designation to the Voter Information Guide.
4. Voter Service Committee, Prue Dana, Co-President, Voter Services
 - a. Prue Dana informed the Board about the yearly application fee of \$300 for the Vote 411 which is due now. The expenditure was unanimously approved.
 - b. Vote 411 will be used all over the State of Ohio and Nation. It was noted that for Fall '17 elections the focus will be local elections.
5. Programming, Sandi Woy-Hazleton, Co-President, Programs
 - a. During the summer months the topics for the League to address in the 17-18 year will be formulated.. Suggestions are being gathered.
 - b. During the past year (16-17) there were 4 evening meetings and 2 mid-day meetings.
 - c. It was suggested that there be follow up to the general meetings. All agreed, but expressed that these efforts would be difficult for a variety of reasons. It was recommended that the Board should work to be the initiators for follow up sessions.
6. Communication/Publicity Committee, Toni Saldivar, Director of Communications
 - a. It was recommended and agreed that an article about our local convention on April 19th at 7:30 in the Holy Trinity Undercroft be written..
 - b. It is important that League members stay informed about Community Programs and activities through the Websites such as Enjoy Oxford or if you are interested, there is a political Facebook page, Action Oxford.
 - c. Toni advised that our platform for the Oxford League Website will have a cost that is yet to be determined.
7. Nominating Committee, Harv Roehling, Chair
 - a. It was announced that the Nominating Committee (Harv Roehling, Steve Gordon, and Kathy McMahon-Klosterman) present the following slate:
Kathy McMahon-Klosterman as Membership Chair
Prue Dana—Continuing as Co-President for Voter Service
Jayne Fryman—Continuing as Observer Corp Director
Warren Mason—International Portfolio Chair
Michelle Boone—Natural Resources Portfolio Chair
 - b. A motion passed to ask the Treasurer if she will also serve as Budget Chair
 - c. It was noted that Kathy McMahon-Klosterman may serve as the Membership Chair and as a member of the nominating committee.
8. Observer Corp, Jane Fryman, Director
 - a. The Board continues to support the Observer Corp. The observers were commended for their efforts. In the current political climate, the importance of Observer Corp is particularly significant.
9. Old Business
 - a. The Board reviewed and completed the 2016 Local Convention minutes. The minutes will be distributed at the Local Convention on April 19th.
 - b. Sibyl Miller led the meeting to plan the local convention scheduled on April 19, 2017. Materials for the convention were presented to the Board and reviewed.
 - c. Sally Southard motioned and Prue Dana seconded that voting delegates from LWVOx attending the Ohio League Convention near Akron, Ohio, on May 5-7, 2017, be offered reimbursement for registration fees and other cost, to the maximum amount feasible financially. The motion carried unanimously.

10. New Business

- a. Discussion focused on the Endowment Fund and the plan to review with the Oxford Community Fund Executive Director.
- b. It was discussed and approved that there will be no raise in LWVOx dues for the 2017-2018 year.
- c. Prue Dana will organize the LWVOx participation in the Oxford Freedom Festival on the 4th of July holiday.
- d. Next LWVOx Local Convention will be on April 19, 2017, at 7:30 pm in the Holy Trinity Undercroft.

11. Announcements

- a. Redistricting workshop will be held by the LWV of Cincinnati on April 29, 1:30-3:00
- b. A Statewide Amnesty International Meeting at Miami Saturday, April 8, 10:30-4.
- c. A discussion of the book, This is an Uprising, will be held April 8 at the Lane Library 4-5:30.
- d. The March for Science will be Saturday, April 22 in Oxford, DC and 300 other communities.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Drewes, LWVOx Secretary

Prue Dana, recorder

Sandi Woy-Hazleton, recorder



Welcome Back, Pat Gifford!



Jack and I, with our two young children, moved to Oxford in 1972 for his position in the Marketing Department at Miami. I later earned a Masters in Textiles & Clothing from Miami, taught Fashion Merchandising in the Home Economics Department at Miami, and earned a Ph.D. in Retail Management from Purdue. I spent 15 years in executive positions at Elder-Beerman headquarters in Dayton, before returning to teach Marketing Strategies and Retailing in the Marketing department at Miami. Both Jack and I retired from Miami in 2009. I own a small craft business, Swittens, recycling wool sweaters into mittens, scarves, ear warmers, and other fashion accessories and employ three other Oxford women as contract designers and sewers. Our daughter, Denise, is a realtor in West Chester and has two daughters, one a student at Aveda Institute and the other a middle schooler. Our son, Steve is a nature and residential real estate photographer and lives in Oxford with his wife, Sarah, who works at Lane Library. They have a son and daughter, both serving in the US Marines.

Q. When did you join the League?

A. I was a returning member in 2016. Not sure when I originally joined. sometime in the early 80's, I think.

Q. Why did you join the League of Women Voters? What is your current role with the League?

A. I have become a much more conscientious observer of national and state government in the last decade and wanted to be more active with the local League now that I am no longer working full time. It is an important organization in which to learn more about the issues we face at the local, state and national level. I am currently on the Membership Committee.

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

A. I am especially concerned about the environment and education and glad the League is including both of these in our programs.

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

A. The connection with bright, enthusiastic, talented women who are passionate about our community and quality of life.

Q. What do you think is the biggest issue voters face?

A. At this point in time, it is difficult for us as voters to understand what is actually happening with the new administration. We must continue to be watchful and respond in areas where the League has specific positions. And we must continue to make our local representatives aware of League positions.

Q. Are you involved in any other community organizations?

A. I am an active member in the Oxford Presbyterian Church, an elder, and chair/member of several committees. Just stepped off the Board of Luna Cares.

Q. What interests do you have outside of the League?

A. I own a small business, Swittens, and contract with three local, artistic women in creating mittens, scarves totes and other fashion accessories from upcycled woolens. I also enjoy bicycling, reading, playing bridge and traveling. My husband and I are avid supporters of Miami athletics.

Please print this page and fill out the Membership Information Form. Then mail it with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Oxford
P.O. Box 504
Oxford, OH 45056

Please make checks payable to LWV of Oxford and mail to P.O Box 504, Oxford, OH 45056.

All Dues are Due by July 1, 2017.

Individual Member \$60.00 _____ (not tax-deductible)

Household Members (2) \$100.00 _____ (not tax-deductible)

Student (16 years & older) \$15.00/semester _____ (not tax-deductible)

Gift to LWVOx Operations Fund \$ _____ (not tax-deductible)

TOTAL \$ _____ (not tax-deductible)

Gift to LWVOx Education Fund \$ _____ and/ or Voter Information Guide (VIG) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____ **tax deductible** (You will receive a letter required by IRS to confirm your tax deductible contribution.)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ **Date** _____

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Name of additional member in household *** _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

*** Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

Preferred Email address _____

*** Preferred Email address _____

Comments (e.g. interests, how you heard about the League)
