



*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*

August, 2018

### Calendar Items of Note

- August 8 (W)** Leadership Team Meeting 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- August 12 (Sun)** **Training** for "BIG VOTER REGISTRATION PUSH", 3:00-4:00pm, Lane Library, Oxford
- August 16 (Th)** **Public Program** Shelly Simonds, "Does Every Single Vote Count? Ask Shelly!"  
7:30pm Holy Trinity Undercroft, E. Walnut and S. Popular, Oxford
- August 29 (W)** **Celebration of Women's Equality Day**, Voter Registration, registration verification, and voter education in the Women's Center in the Armstrong Student Center, Miami University, 10:30am – 2:00pm
- August 30 (W)** **Oxford Community Picnic** – Voter Registration, Verification and Education with NAACP-Oxford Unit Uptown Parks
- September 5 (W)** Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- September 12 (W)** **Public Program** "How Informed are you about Local Education?" 7:30-9:00pm, Holy Trinity Undercroft
- October 3 (W)** Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- October 4 (Th)** **Candidates' Forum**, 7:00-9:00pm, The Knolls of Oxford
- November 6 (Tu)** **Election Day**
- November 7 (W)** Board Meeting, 10:30am-12:15pm, Holy Trinity Board Room
- November 12 (M)** **Brown Bag Lunch and Meeting**: What does the "Right to Privacy" mean in the Context of Women's Reproductive Health? 12:00-1:00pm, Lane Library
- December 6 (Th)** **Elected Official's Reception** 5:00-6:30pm, Oxford Community Arts Center



### **Diversity Training**

By Sibyl Miller

At the LWVUS National Convention, I participated in an intensive Diversity Training session focused on the League's commitment to take intentional action to make the League reflect the 21st Century diversity of our country. We acknowledged that the League, while attracting many younger and more racially diverse members within the past several years, still remains comprised largely of older white women and "cries out" for a broader membership that represents the future more accurately. I believe A MORE DIVERSE AND

REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERSHIP WILL RESULT IN A STRONGER AND MORE INFLUENTIAL LEAGUE—MUCH BETTER POSITIONED TO PROPEL FORWARD OUR MISSION OF MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK.

In mid-July, I briefed participants of our own LWV-Oxford leadership team on the content and benefits of the Diversity training and the National League's emphasis on this vital initiative for change. In our case, diversity includes not only persons of various backgrounds (sometimes experiencing marginalization in broader civic life), but also college students and other younger adults not currently involved in League activities. How do we make our League more relevant, inviting, and engaging for these potential members? How do we ensure that our own leadership includes different voices—welcoming voices—that beckon these new members?

Our local leadership then discussed different types of programs that we might bring to our membership that could help to increase our own appreciation of diversity, confront the ways in which we fall short, and enhance inclusive practices to reach out to new potential members in creative new ways. While we could sponsor or conduct our own training, we recognize that Miami University and organizations associated with the University frequently provide seminars and public programs on many related topics, including discrimination, racism, unconscious bias, diversity, white privilege, women's empowerment, LGBTQ concerns, and inclusive practices. We want to leverage those opportunities and steer our members to take advantage of them, for both their personal growth and their subsequent ideas and actions to help the LWVOxford become a truly welcoming organization.

**We are currently looking for a League member who is willing to take on the title and work of “Diversity Coordinator.”** The role of the Diversity Coordinator(s) would be to:

- 1) Select 3 to 5 programs provided by University- or Community- affiliated groups this fall. Provide the event details to the LWV-Oxford Facebook administrator and communicate to our members through e-mail, urging their participation.
- 2) Consider attending the diversity training program to be provided by LWV-Ohio in Columbus in the fall. The date has not yet been announced, but will likely be on a Saturday. A carpool with me would be welcome!
- 3) Help facilitate a discussion at our Annual Program Planning meeting in February 2019, on our diversity needs. Our members would discuss “take-aways” from the programs we all had attended and also brainstorm ways to incorporate inclusive practices into our local league.

We probably will find the need for some uncomfortable conversations, and that's okay. The important thing is to acknowledge organizational weakness and to take steps towards removing barriers. While we participate in diversity-related programs, let's ask ourselves “How can we more clearly see our League through the eyes of others?” Also, what happens when we succeed in that effort? What change does that awareness engender in us, as individuals and as an organization? Our LWVOxford has never avoided discomfort as we engage in civil discourse, so I expect that we will successfully do the self-reflection necessary to address this head on.

Our goal is for all of our members to attend 2 to 3 “diversity-related” programs this fall, consider how we can improve both in our personal lives and organizationally, and then move forward with intention, proposing action steps to increase our diversity in membership and leadership. If you are interested in taking on this coordinator role, please contact me or Kathy McMahan-Klosterman, Membership Director. We look forward to working with you on this crucial and engaging initiative.

Sibyl Harris Miller 513-255-2052.



## **“The Big Push” - Voter Registration Prior to November 2018**

By Jenny Fisher

On **Sunday, August 12**, starting at 3 p.m., the League of Women Voters of Oxford will host an informal program in the upstairs conference room of the Oxford Lane Library for members and interested community members. This program will provide a short introduction to voter registration for new members and other interested people who have never performed voter registration services before. League members will share their best practices and some key points to a successful drive.

After this introduction, those attending will engage in a “brain-storming session” to identify local community events or locations that could support a voter registration drive. The intent is to create a master sign-up list of events and individuals willing to staff the voter registration booths. While the LWV Oxford will remain active in providing voter registration services in Oxford, the League hopes that trained volunteers (not necessarily League members but could be) will be willing to take their skills to surrounding communities. Those wanting to participate in “The Big Push” but are unable to attend the program should send an e-mail to the event organizer, Jenny Fisher, at [JennyFisher156@gmail.com](mailto:JennyFisher156@gmail.com). This program is free and open to all.

Please note that members who have already signed up for the Voter Registration Drives in Armstrong Student Center on August 29<sup>th</sup> and at the Oxford Community Picnic on August 30<sup>th</sup> do not need to take any additional actions.



### **Does Every Single Vote Count? Ask Shelly!**

Does each and every vote truly count?

Does YOUR vote truly count?

Join the LWVOxford at this **LWVOxford Public Program** to hear from Shelly Simonds, whose run for office was lost by, yes, one vote! The program, open to the public, will take place on **Thursday, August 16, 7:30 pm**, in the Undercroft of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, E. Walnut St. and S. Poplar St., Oxford. (Enter by the Poplar St. door or the central front entrance for access to the elevator.) Shelly, the daughter of a local family and friend of the League, will discuss her experience and her observations about Election processes, women running for elected positions, and her thoughts about the current climate of American politics. We welcome the entire community to hear this important and interesting presentation and the discussion which follows.



### **The 2020 Census: The Need to Count EVERYONE**

The U.S. census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution. It began as a count of residents that was used to apportion the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In modern times, the census count is used for much more. In addition to the critical House of Representatives apportionment, census data is used in decision making for distribution of \$600+ billion in federal funding to the states for housing, highways, hospitals, schools and a number of other programs.

### **The 2010 census**

In 2010, the total count of the U.S. population was approximately 309 million people. Although the 2010 census is touted as being one of the most accurate in American history in terms of net result, there were significant undercounts of minorities, young children, renters and middle-aged men.

The Census Bureau reports the following undercounts\*\*\*:

- Black population 2.1%
- Hispanic population 1.5%
- American Indian and Alaska Native populations living on reservations 4.9%
- young children (aged 0-4) 4.6%
- renters and middle-aged men - percentage of undercount not provided by the U.S. Census Bureau

### **Next up: the 2020 census**

The 2020 census has unique aspects.

First, new for 2020, households will be asked to return census responses online, not via U.S. Mail. Those who do not respond electronically will be sought out by a Census Bureau fieldworker who will enter the data, if the individuals being sought can be found. It's unclear how many workers will be needed in the field and there are concerns that the Census Bureau budget may not be large enough to hire the workers needed. Congress has not approved the total funding requested by the Bureau for the 2020 census. Several planned tests of the new online system were cancelled, due to lack of funding. The only test run of the 2020 census was conducted in Rhode Island's Providence County in spring of 2018.

Second, the Justice Department requested that a citizenship question be included in the 2020 census and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the census, approved the request. The Justice Department states that the question is needed for a better count of voting age citizens, so that the Voting Rights Act can be better enforced. The citizenship question would ask respondents to specify if they, and the individuals in their households, are U.S. citizens.

More than two dozen states, cities and citizen rights organizations are suing to remove the question, as they believe that inclusion of the question is not needed for voting rights enforcement and that including it will lead to a severe undercount, especially among immigrant and Latino populations who already have significant fears of federal agencies. Census Bureau officials stress that the data collected cannot be shared with other federal agencies. However, immigrant communities point out that such laws can be changed and that there is a lack of trust among those who fear that census responses will be used to target them or their family members for deportation.

The League of Women Voters has a clear stand on the citizenship question. We believe that including this question on the census will discourage participation and impact the data collected in every community across the country. We urge our members to sign the League petition to fight this decision: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

\*\*\*[https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010\\_census/cb12-95.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb12-95.html)



## **The League of Women Voters is Making Democracy Work: Notes from the LWVUS National Convention, June 28-July 1, 2018**

by Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization, LWVOxford, Ohio

As our Voting Delegate to the National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), I sat, stood, sang, jumped, and cheered, as our dynamic, woman-led organization convened in the majestic grand ballroom of the historic Chicago Hilton hotel. Our National President, Ms. Chris Carson, took the stage to address the wildly applauding crowd of about 1200 people, who all felt the shared experience of our power, determination, and intention to make democracy work!

Memories of my own youth arose for me, as dignified young Girl Scouts “presented the colors” and helped us all sing the National Anthem to start off our Convention. These patriotic traditions reminded me of some of the reasons I like the League—it is now a respected institution of American civic life, but it was born from brave, protracted, and tireless protest over the denial of voting rights for women. It is dedicated to protecting democracy, helping our nation live up to its highest ideals, and calling out and resisting elements and movements in our national life and in our local communities that threaten our democratic principles.

Now, perhaps more than ever, the League of Women Voters, a nearly 100 year old institution for “good government” and non-partisan voter education, is crucial in resisting erosion of democracy on the national, state, and local levels. Our voting rights and free elections must be ever guarded, and advocating for action on specific issues, based on well-researched positions, is central to our mission. Issues we are committed to range from privacy rights in reproductive health care, to stemming gun violence, to protecting the environment and voting rights, human rights, and women’s rights. What a marvelous—and fearless—bunch we are!

Some Resolutions made or re-affirmed at the Convention included:

- Promoting a National Popular Vote for the US Presidency
- Abolishing the Electoral College
- Utilizing current scientific knowledge in making decisions about America’s energy policies
- insisting on individual privacy rights in reproductive health
- Protesting the addition of a citizenship question to the US 2020 Census form

Of course, voting rights, money in politics, fair elections, civil discourse, and advocacy for public education and reduction of gun violence remain high on the list of advocacy concerns and public positions of the League.

A high point of the Convention Banquet was the Strengthening Democracy Award, given to the most effective State League, which went to our own Ohio League, for our great work on Redistricting and our huge victory on Issue 1. Our Ohio delegation was thrilled and proud, and I was especially proud, knowing that our own Oxford League contributed so heavily to our statewide success in fighting political Gerrymandering!

Another emphasis of the Convention was a commitment to making all our Leagues more diverse and proactively welcoming of people of all races and backgrounds, orientations, ages, and points of view. Our own LWVOxford leadership team decided at a recent meeting to revitalize our commitment and our efforts to be intentional about diversity and inclusion. You will see more about this in another article in this edition of the Voter, and you may find a volunteer opportunity in which you can help our League reach these goals.

The LWVOxford will be hitting hard during the next several weeks with a big push to register voters, help voters verify their registration ( as the upcoming, though fortunately delayed, voter purge in Ohio remains a danger to full participation in voting and must be watched carefully, in my view), educating voters, and getting out the vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018! We will be using a new app—Verify Your Vote—to do quick verifications of people’s registration status as we talk with them at various events. Verify Your Vote is an initiative of Ohio Voice, of which our recent speaker, ( and my niece!), voting rights attorney Camille Wimbish, is the Elections Director.

Together we are living out our Mission of Making Democracy Work! Please review the Calendar in this Voter, and join us at our many upcoming events, at which you will experience, and contribute to, the energy, determination, and expertise of the members of our League of Women Voters of Oxford!

Sincerely, Sibyl Harris Miller cell: 513-255-2052



## **‘Families Belong Together’ Rally**

By Jenny Fisher

The League of Women Voters of Oxford supported the ‘Families Belong Together’ Rally in Uptown Oxford on June 30<sup>th</sup>. This was a community event dedicated to raising awareness of families who had been separated at our American border; including minors separated from their parents. At the event, Prue Dana, Invited Speaker and Co-President for Voter Registration, spoke to those gathered on the importance of speaking out and demanding the re-unification of families that were previously separated.

The League of Women Voters of the United States officially endorsed the rallies that occurred all across the country. The League of Women Voters position on immigration includes the following:

*Immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet economic, business and employment needs; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises.*

LWV members staffed a voter registration table at the event and we also supported a “Write Your Representative” station. This station provided stationary and markers for our community members to write notes or letters to Congressman Warren Davidson, Senator Sherrod Brown, and/or Senator Rob Portman. The intent of having this station was to assist our community in actively engaging with their elected officials and therefore fulfilling our overall mission of “Making Democracy Work.”

The envelopes mailed to our elected officials included a cover letter which stated the official League position on immigration, reported news of Prue’s speech at the rally, explained what the “Write Your Representatives” station was, and included the following disclaimer:

*The statements or sentiments included in the enclosed notes may or may not align with the positions established by the League of Women Voters. We are committed to remaining a nonpartisan organization. While some of the enclosed notes may be partisan in nature, please know that the station was open to all individuals, were not read by our volunteers, and have not necessarily been endorsed by us. We are happy to provide this service to our community.*

In the envelopes to our elected officials, we also included notes and letters we received from the July 2<sup>nd</sup> Independence Day celebration in Oxford. A “Write Your Representatives” station was also present at our Voter Registration Booth to maximize participation amongst community members.



## **Sibyl and Bill Miller Hosted Victory Party on June 3**

by Toni Saldivar

"This is how democracy works," declared Sibyl Miller, LWV Oxford President for Organization, at a Victory Party to celebrate Ohioans voting overwhelmingly in the May 4 Primary for an amendment to the Ohio State Constitution that changes the way Ohio U.S. Congressional voting districts are drawn.

More than sixty-five League members and voting rights supporters gathered at Sibyl and Bill Miller's Oxford home on June 3 to mark the success of the Fair Districts/Fair Elections petition drive. This was a state-wide

effort to end gerrymandering in Ohio in which the League of Women Voters of Ohio took a leading role. Sibyl thanked Jenny Fisher, Oxford League member and Facebook Administrator, for her outstanding work as the local liaison and coordinator with the Fair Districts campaign which collected thousands of signatures to put redistricting reform on the ballot in November.

In response to this powerful grassroots initiative, the Ohio State Assembly crafted its own version of a bipartisan method for drawing congressional voting districts and held public hearings in Columbus that led to a compromise: State-elected government officials will remain in charge of Ohio redistricting, but in a bi-partisan legislative committee that will rule out gerrymandering to favor one political party over the other.

"The successful passage of Issue I is a true victory for fair elections in Ohio," Sibyl continued. "In addition, we must safeguard the right to vote, resist the imposition of limitations on voting, and promote voter registration and strong voter participation in every election."



Sibyl Miller (l.) and Jenny Fisher (r) address guests at the June 3 gathering to celebrate the passing of Issue #1 in the May 4 Primary.



## **LWV Oxford Supports Fund for Woman Suffrage Monument to be Unveiled in 2020**

by Toni Saldivar

Supporters of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund, which include The League of Women Voters of Oxford, are breaking the "bronze ceiling" in New York City's Central Park with the first statue there honoring real, historical women. The break will occur on Woman's Equality Day, August 26, 2020, the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment which secured women's right to vote. On that centennial, a statue of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony will be unveiled and dedicated in Central Park. The organized political struggle Stanton and Anthony launched took 72 years, from the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19, 1848, until Constitutional change on August 26, 1920. The cultural revolution for equal rights for women is, of course, on-going.

The drive to place a statue of Stanton and Anthony in the heart of New York City has been led by Pam Elam, attorney, and Coline Jenkins, activist and great-great granddaughter of Stanton. Elam and Jenkins recently announced that sculptor Meredith Bergmann had won the commission for the statue with her design showing Stanton and Anthony in collaboration as women suffrage leaders. [<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/ny-metro-sculptor-chosen-real-women-central-park>].

Bergmann's creation will include names of other women who also devoted their lives to gaining women's right to vote. The bronze statue will be called The Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Women Suffrage Movement Monument. According to the National Women's History Project, "A major educational campaign will begin with the unveiling on August 26, 2020, to tell the complete, compelling, and complex women's suffrage story...the largest nonviolent revolution in American history" ["How Women Won the Vote" nwhp.org]



Coline Jenkins, of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund, receives a donation of \$500 from the League of Women Voters of Oxford (OH) presented by League member Toni Saldivar in Grand Central Station, NYC, November 27, 2015. Coline, great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, holds a vintage silk parasol from the suffrage movement. She became a friend of our League in August 2014 when she visited Oxford to see our McGuffey Museum exhibit "The Remarkable Stantons," which included the story of the Stanton-Bonham house where Elizabeth Cady Stanton stayed in 1870 when she lectured at Miami University. Our Stanton exhibit is available to view digitally at <http://wiggins.lib.muohio.edu/stantonhouse/>



## **Update on Voter Service**

by Prue Dana

### ***Here we go!***

The election is only about 100 days away! ...And here is what we are doing are and what we need to be doing. Can you help? Call or email Prue Dana.

### **Absentee and Early Voting**

The Secretary of State is sending out to all registered voters a "short form" for an absentee or early ballot. If you wish to vote early or absentee, you are to send that form back to the Butler Board of Elections. And they will send you a ballot.

### **If you are not registered**

Go online to request registration forms which you must fill out and send to the Butler County Board of Elections.

**OR**

**Register:**

1. August 29, 10 to 2 a.m. In the “Well” of Armstrong Center.
2. August 30, 4 to 7 p.m. The Community Picnic, Uptown
3. Anytime! Forms are at the City Building and the Library

We (the Oxford League) volunteered to use a new system to “Verify your Vote.” Watch the roll out of this.

**VOTE411**

We now are putting together the questions for the candidates. The State Board will be sending questions and answers out to all State and Federal candidates and the Ohio Judicial Vote will be doing all of the judicial questions. We will load that into VOTE411.

**Ways YOU can help with Voter Service**

1. Could you register voters? –In the times stated above
2. Could you help deliver the Voters Guide? September 27. Late morning
3. Could you help with the Candidate Forum? Host a table?
4. VOTE!!!!

**Membership News**

by Kathy McMahon-Klosterman

As we look forward to the 2020 celebration of women gaining the right to vote there is excitement and planning for events already in progress. Looking forward to this year, 2018 - 2019 meetings, the League has a robust schedule. We begin with guest Shelly Simonds, a ‘locally grown’ woman who lost her election bid in Virginia for the House by a coin toss! We have candidate forums, current topic discussions such as electoral college, Disruptive Economies, individual privacy rights and more. There is much work to do and you are an important part of it

Members have been sending in 2019 dues and several reminders have been sent out. Last year we had OVER 100 members. To date sixty-five people have renewed membership with more coming in every day. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please do. We need your skills and energy. Consider giving a membership to a friend or relative who values voting rights and an informed electorate.

Membership forms are available on the LWV web site.

**If you need more information, contact Kathy at [mcmahok@miamioh.edu](mailto:mcmahok@miamioh.edu)**

**A New Text Message Service**

The LWV-Ohio has provided a great resource for us. We can text vote-note to 31996 to receive text message reminders from the League of Women Voters of Ohio on key election dates and activities. Spread the news to your friends! We have given this resource visibility through Facebook and will continue to promote it at our Voter Registration Booths.



## Found

Found a nice looking leather glasses case. The inside has PEARLEOOVISION.  
It was one the Voter Registration table after the July 2nd parade  
Check Prue's back porch...



## Meet New Member Lisa Staggs Herrmann

by Toni Saldivar

Lisa Staggs Herrmann grew up in Hamilton, Ohio, and graduated from Miami University as a marketing major. Her husband, sculptor James Herrmann, grew up in Cincinnati and also attended Miami, earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees, but the two met later when she was building her career at Butler Rural Electric Cooperative and he was a science teacher in the St. Bernard Elwood Place City Schools in Cincinnati.

Both have served their communities with their talents. Now retired from teaching, James Herrmann works in his home studio in Milford Township and exhibits his sculpture in art shows, as well as in galleries. Many of his works are inspired by the natural world of his father's Hamilton County farm.

Lisa has risen to Director of Member and Community Relations at Butler Rural Electric Cooperative. She is in charge of marketing, communications, customer services, events, and grants to local organizations made possible by donations from co-op members through Butler Rural Community Connection.

With a daughter at the University of Cincinnati and a son a junior at Badin High School, Lisa decided now was the time to join the LWV of Oxford. Her first activity was marching in the July 2 Freedom Festival parade with other members and, like them, dressed as a suffragist. She is a strong supporter of women's rights and thinks that every generation should learn the history of women's struggle to secure their Constitutional right to vote and should become engaged voters who understand the issues. As a professional woman, she sees how far women have come, but also how far women have to go to achieve full equality with men. Lisa believes this must happen if we are to deal effectively with our economic, social and environmental challenges.

She loves her work for Butler Rural Electric Co-operative. She loves that it was founded in 1936 by the Rural Electrification Act, part of President Roosevelt's New Deal. That legislation allowed the government to offer no-interest loans to citizens for the purpose of setting up co-operatives to provide electricity in areas not served by for-profit utilities. Urban areas had been electrified since the 1890s, but rural areas were not profitable. Thus, improving rural lives required a not-for-profit model. It worked. Lisa noted that not one of the government loans for rural electrification via cooperatives has defaulted.

There are over 900 rural electric cooperative nation-wide. "The people who are the customers are also the owners," Lisa explains. "Each co-op is autonomous but may work with others through statewide affiliates for



such purposes as lobbying." Lisa was recently in Washington, D.C., lobbying for the passage of the Farm Bill with sufficient funds to provide grants and loans for rural development of broadband and telecommunications. Many rural areas--including our own-- lack Internet and cell phone service. Cooperatives can meet that need. Lisa believes in the mission of Butler Rural Electric and its management philosophy, both guided by "the need to serve" rather than to profit. Both fit Lisa's personal philosophy: improve people's quality of life through education and service.

Welcome, **Lisa Staggs Herrmann!**



On July 2nd, the League of Women Voters of Oxford marched in the Oxford Independence Day Parade. Members that marched included Prue Dana, Judi Kolbas, Lisa Herrmann, Jo McQueen, Becky Quay, Kathi Brinkman, and Sibyl Miller. The League was proud to display our new LWV banner.

