



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF OXFORD, OHIO

Call to Local Convention

The 2018 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Oxford will begin our 65th year of service and action. This packet contains annual reports of LWVOx activities, as well as the Education Fund annual budget, the proposed General Fund budget, local program material, and other items for distribution 30 days prior to the convention in compliance with our bylaws.

**Please review this information and bring it with you
to the 65th Local Convention**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

**At Oxford Presbyterian Church,
Memorial Building, in the Molyneaux Lounge**

**101 N. Main St., Oxford, Ohio
(use Church St. entrance)**

League of Woman Voters of Oxford, Ohio, Proposed Convention Rules

Following the adoption of the order of Business, the Convention decides the special rules not covered by the Bylaws or Roberts Rules of Order by which it will be governed. Adopting these rules requires a two-third vote; amending them, a simple majority is required. Any changes made in the rules later in the convention require a two-thirds vote.

DELEGATE: Individuals with currently paid memberships in the LWVOx shall be voting delegates.

TO GAIN THE FLOOR: When addressing the Chair to gain the floor, a delegate shall stand and clearly state his/her name.

VOTING: Voting shall be by voice, standing vote, or show of hands.

ADOPTING THE LOCAL PROGRAM FOR THE COMING YEAR

I. Presenting items for adoption:

A. Written position statements for all existing local items will be found in the convention packet. Please familiarize yourself with them as they will not be read aloud, in the interest of streamlining our procedures. Time will be given to review them as they are presented. Clarifying questions will be welcomed.

B. Any proposed new local items recommended by the Board will also be found herein. These will be read, along with the Board's rationale for recommending them. Questions for clarification will then be in order.

C. As no other items were presented to the Board by the deadline specified in the Bylaws, there are no new non-recommended items before this Convention.

II. Debating items for adoption:

A. When all proposals are before the members, the chair will allocate specified time for debate (3 minutes per speaker) and will try to give equal time to each item, and to pro and con arguments on each side.

B. Items will be debated in order presented.

C. Amendments within the scope of the item may be presented and voted on at this time. An amendment may clarify an item but may not enlarge it or change its direction or main thought.

The Chair rules whether an amendment is "germane."

III. Voting on items for adoption: A majority vote is required, and items will be voted on in order of presentation. No further debate on substance is permitted during the voting process.

League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio

65th Local Convention

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, 7:30 p.m.

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER – Co-President for Organization, Sibyl Harris Miller, Presiding

ORGANIZATION OF CONVENTION

Introduction of Parliamentarian
Appointment of readers for Convention minutes, as needed
Adoption of Local Convention Rules, Acceptance of Agenda

MINUTES OF 2017 CONVENTION – Sandy Drewes, Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTS

Co-President for Organization – Sibyl Harris Miller
Membership – Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Director
Communication/Publicity – Toni Saldivar, Director
Observer Corps – Jane Fryman, Director
Program – Sandi Woy-Hazleton, Co-President for Program
Redistricting – Jenny Fisher, Coordinator for Fair Districts
Voter Services – Prue Dana, Co-President for Voter Services

FINANCE-RELATED REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS

BUDGET REPORTS – Ginny Scott, Treasurer
Fund Balances
Presentation of Proposed 2018-19 budget: General Fund
Discussion
Adoption
Presentation of Proposed 2018-19 budget: Education Fund
Discussion
Adoption

REVIEW OF LWVOx POSITIONS – Co-Presidents Sandi Woy-Hazleton and Prue Dana

Local Program Positions – No new proposals or changes recommended at this time
Our Priority State concern – Ohio Congressional Redistricting

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Harv Roehling, Chair

Presentation of slate for election at 2018 Convention
Nominations from the floor
Elections to positions
Appointments to non-elected positions

NEW BUSINESS – Member direction to the Board

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

**Minutes for the League of Women Voters of Oxford, Ohio
64th Local Convention**

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Held Trinity Episcopal Church Undercroft
25 E Walnut Street, Oxford, Ohio

Call to Order at 7:35 p.m. Co-President for Organization, Sibyl Harris Miller, announced that a quorum had been reached and then opened the Convention

Organization of the Convention

- a. Paper copies of the Convention Packets sent via email were distributed with a packet of updated material. Time was allotted for members to review
- b. The agenda and local convention rules for the 64th Local Convention were approved

Minutes of 2016 Convention

- a. Paper copies of the 2016 Local Convention minutes were included in the Convention packet.
- b. Minutes were unanimously adopted.

Annual Committee Reports

- a. Sibyl Miller individually introduced and thanked all committee chairs for service to the League this past year.
- b. Each Chair/Director stood and presented a summary of the report included in the Convention packet. Committee members were recognized and thanked for contributions.
- c. Reports Presented
 1. Co-President for Organization—Sibyl Harris Miller
 2. Membership—Sally Southard, Director
 3. Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)—Sally Southard
 4. Communication/Publicity—Toni Saldivar, Director
 5. Observer Corps—Sibyl Miller for Jane Fryman
 6. Co-President for Program—Sibyl Miller for Sandi Woy-Hazleton
 7. Co-President for Voter Services—Prue Dana
 8. Nominating Committee—Harv Roehling

Finance Related Reports and Action Items

- a. 2017-2018 is a year for the LWVOx Fund Drive that supplements our revenues for the General or Education Fund. Sibyl asked that a volunteer come forward in the next week to form the committee and spearhead the fall fundraiser. Members, community residents, and local businesses are invited to participate.
- b. Treasurer's Report, 2016-2017 Sibyl reported for Treasurer, Ginny Scott,

Referring to the distributed report:

Education Fund Balance as of 4/ 17 /17:	\$2226.92
General Fund as of 4/17 /17:	\$4441.81
Endowment fund as of 12/31/16:	\$ 13,522.70.

c. A motion to adopt the 2017-18 Education Fund and General Fund budgets was amended to read as follows:

To adopt the General Fund budget as proposed and withhold adoption of the Education Fund budget until further information on expenses for the Voter Information Guide, Candidates' Forum, and Special Programs relating to Voter Services is supplied to the Board of Directors.

The motion as amended was adopted.

Review of LWVOx Positions and By Laws

- a. The National LWV has amended the By Laws language for voting membership. The new language states "persons at least 16 years of age." LWVOx Board has amended our By Laws accordingly, and there is no additional action needed, since this was done at the national level.
- b. The Ohio LWV will be moving forward on their Primary Election Position study and on a study of Charter Schools in the State of Ohio.
- c. The priority at the State level is the proposed Ohio Constitutional Amendment regarding Ohio Congressional Redistricting. The proposition will be put on the State ballot November '17 if the necessary required signatures are collected.
 1. The LWVOx will assist in collecting signatures in the area as soon as the petitions are prepared (hopefully early May)
 2. It is recommended that LWVOx work with other groups that have created maps to canvas the Oxford area in the past to expedite the process of collecting signatures and to make sure all local neighborhoods are covered. One partner will be the NAACP-Oxford.

New Business

- a. Prue Dana is assembling a group of LWVOx to participate in the Oxford 4th of July parade. All members are welcome.
- b. Suggestions from members for possible programs in 2017-2018 included:
 1. Informational meeting in September to inform about the Revisions on the Oxford City Charter that are on the ballot in November '17.
 2. Informational meeting prior to November '17 election to explain the proposed congressional redistricting.
 3. Revisit the issue of transportation in particular the use and abuse of bicycles in the Oxford community.
 4. Update on clean water in the City of Oxford, the SW Regional Water Authority, and area wells.
 5. Revisit the Equal Rights Amendment—what it means in today's world.
 6. Impact of slicing of funding on Human Services of Butler County with focus on mental health and social services to families.
- c. Given the number of suggestions for programming, it was recommended that Sandi Woy-Hazleton continue to serve as the Chair, but that each program should have a coordinator and committee to plan and organize the specific event.

- d. It was mentioned to review and possibly increase the number of League events during the day.

Nominations and Election of Officers for 2017-2018

- a. Harv Roehling thanked committee members for their efforts creating a slate of officers for 2017-2018.
- b. The slate of officers put forth at the 2017 Convention were sent to members electronically and were included, in updated form, in materials distributed at the Convention.
- c. Nominations from the floor were called. None were given.
- e. The Nominating Committee presented the following updated slate of officers for election at the 2017 Convention.

Co-President for Voter Services---Prue Dana, 2017-2018

Directors of Portfolios, 2017-2019

International—Warren Mason

Natural Resources—Michelle Boone

Membership Director—Kathy McMahon-Klosterman 2017-2019

Observer Corps Director—Jane Fryman 2017-2018

Budget Committee Chair—Ginny Scott, ad hoc, 2017-2018

Nominating Committee, 2017-2018—Harv Roehling, Steve Gordon, Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, and two members appointed by the board

- f. The updated slate of officers for 2017-2018 presented to the LWVOx by the Nominating Committee at the 2017 Convention was unanimously adopted.

Announcements

- a. All are invited to attend the Walk for Science, April 22, 2017 on the Miami University campus at 11:30 AM. Sibyl Miller, as Co-President of the LWVOx, is one of the speakers. LWV representatives are encouraged to carry signs that include LWVOx to identify themselves as members of the League.
- b. Sally Southard and Jenny Fisher are planning to attend the State League of Women Voters Convention in Cuyahoga Falls on May 5-7. There is still one spot remaining. Let Sibyl Miller know if interested ASAP. The LWVOx will subsidize part of expenses for Voting Delegates.
- c. George Trapp, member of LWVOx, attended the Statehouse Day this year in Columbus. He may work with the Ohio League Lobbying Corp in the future.
- d. New members were introduced. LWVOx now has 84 members on the roster.
- e. Sibyl Miller thanked Sally Southard for her service and dedication to the LWVOx, having served in numerous roles through the years. Sibyl personally thanked Sally for her expertise, guidance, and support. While Sally Southard will remain a League member, she will be greatly missed on the Board as Membership Director.

The 2017 Convention Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sandra Drewes,

Secretary, LWVOx

Report of Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization

What an exciting year this has been for our League of Women Voters of Oxford (LWVOx). We have been truly living out our mission of Making Democracy Work! Our League has been the lynchpin for our region in the Fair Districts = Fair Elections campaign, as it picked up steam a year ago. Our Fair Districts Coordinator, Jenny Fisher, has served as lead trainer and organizer for signature gathering throughout Butler County and surrounding communities. She was in high demand for training petition drive participants, explaining political gerrymandering, and putting together petition drives, both door-to-door and at a multitude of community events. So many of our members took active roles, gathering signatures on petitions, promoting Fair Districts, and defending the campaign from critics, using compelling arguments to influence skeptics. Our local efforts played a significant part in getting us to the pivotal point where we are today. We now have Issue 1 for Districting Reform on the ballot on Primary Election Day, May 8, 2018. We now need to get new voters registered, get out the vote, and encourage all voters to vote YES on Issue 1, on May 8th. I repeat, VOTE YES ON ISSUE 1 on May 8th!

Our League continues to be the "go-to" organization for voter education and nonpartisan "good government" activism in the greater Oxford area. With the excellent leadership of my other Co-Presidents, Prue Dana and Sandi Woy-Hazleton, we have led the way in voter registration (partnering with the Oxford Unit of the NAACP and other groups) and in-depth voter education via multiple platforms. We have conducted highly engaging community and membership meetings on topics vital to our community well-being. By the end of this program year, we will have had 10 community/larger events (not including the Local Convention) and 9 open Board Meetings, as well as several informal meetings, frequently through electronic communications, to coordinate petitions, materials, and events. One of the major highlights was our Candidates' Forum prior to the November 2017 election. About 150 people attended this event, and many more read our highly respected Voter Information Guide.

Our Secretary, Sandy Drewes, and our Treasurer, Ginny Scott, provide the "infrastructure" that keeps our League organized and functioning, with effective business practices that enable us to work on a multitude of projects and assignments with thoroughness and clarity. As Sandy now vacates her position as Secretary, she leaves an excellent and well-organized record of League proceedings and accomplishments. We thank Sandy for all her work in keeping our League activities well-documented and coherent.

Our Observation Corps, under the leadership of Jane Fryman, sends members to attend and report on public governmental meetings, serving in both a "watchdog" and a "support" capacity. After many years in this position and after serving in many other League positions over the years, including President, Jane is stepping down from the Observer Corps at this time. We are so grateful to her for all her dedicated efforts on behalf of the League and the entire community!

Our Nominating Committee Chair, Harv Roehling, and his Committee members—Steve Gordon, Kathy McMahan-Klosterman, and Toni Saldivar, have worked diligently to provide a slate of leaders to continue and expand our work over the coming years. We intend to provide leadership opportunities to our growing group of newer members, thus bringing in new skills and points of

view that will help us meet the needs of our local League, while also propelling our advocacy efforts to new and bolder action.

Our Communications Director, Toni Saldivar, and her team of Jacque Rioja Velarde and Jenny Fisher (Facebook) and Stacey Peterson (websites), have made huge strides in getting out our messages in expanded ways! Using multiple communication platforms, they are putting our message in front of new “audiences” almost daily. Jacque is now stepping down as our Facebook coordinator, and we want to express our gratitude for all her highly effective work, her patience, and her excellent judgment about content and tone of our messages over the years. Another important element of our communications is The Voter, our highly informative periodic newsletter. Alice Laatsch is our Publisher Extraordinaire of The Voter! Together, Toni’s communications team continues to expand and enhance our public profile, internal cohesiveness, and community presence.

Our membership numbers are growing, as our Membership Director, Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, helps people realize that the League is a revitalized, powerful player on the national, state, and local scene, in protecting American democracy, fighting for voting rights, women's rights, racial justice, and rallying people to stand up for democratic principles. We are respected for our well-researched and fearless positions on issues of importance to all Americans, especially women and families. Moreover, Kathy helps local community members see our League as an exciting and meaningful organization to join!

The League, from its radical beginnings almost 100 years ago, to its current role as a major defender of nonpartisan democratic principles, is now a powerful institution fighting for so many positions we hold dear and encouraging our full engagement as leaders in all areas of civic life. Please spread the word about the League, so that others will know that membership is rewarding, powerful, meaningful, and often, fun, as well. Together, we ARE MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Respectfully submitted by Sibyl Harris Miller

Membership Report

The League of Women of Oxford has welcomed twenty-three new members this year. We are delighted to have these women and men participating in our work and sharing their talents with us.

Two members have moved away, others have redirected their energies to new endeavors with a total of fourteen people who have not renewed membership this year. Thus, we have a total of ninety-one members for 2017-2018. The political climate has motivated many new people to consider joining the League of Women Voters because they appreciate the non-partisan information provided by LWV.

Members have contributed \$510 for the Voter’s Guide, \$130 for the Education Fund and \$35 for General Use. We have 64 individual memberships and 27 family dues (\$ 50 for each person versus \$60 per individual). We have six Honorary Lifetime Members (50 years or more) in this Oxford chapter, who no longer have to pay dues, although some continue.

Each time the League has offered a public program, an email invitation to join the League was sent to participants with a membership form included. For example, after the ‘rally’ at LaRosa’s, (January 19, 2018) sharing information with community members about the Women’s March scheduled in Cincinnati, numerous people took membership forms stating they planned to join. At least one person did join after this event. Various League events have brought in over thirty participants in attendance. After each event we have gained one or two new members who responded to the emailed membership form and invitation to join.

As membership chair, I have sent three emails reminding lapsed members to pay dues for the year. I have also sent an email to individuals who had been members in years past, identified by older membership rolls. I expect some of these individuals will rejoin the League.

Dues each fiscal year, which is July 1-June 30, can be paid early at the Annual Spring Local Convention; all memberships expire June 30. Our bylaws read that a member whose dues are not paid by November 1 is removed from the Active Roster and transferred to the Inactive Roster of the LWVUS, LWVO, and LWVOx. Given the transition of Membership Chair, we have been lenient in continuing to send out local information and correspondence. All Oxford League members receive email newsletters and Alerts from the LWVO (no extra cost – as a benefit of LWVO dues).

As the new Membership Chair, I am grateful for the support and information provided by committee members Judy Rymer, Pat Gifford, Rosie Pelphrey, Linda Simmons, and Linda Williams. They have assisted in meeting setups, providing refreshments, and encouraging interested persons to become involved in the League. Jo McQueen has also worked with the committee informally by welcoming people to events. The group has worked collaboratively as a team to make visitors feel welcomed to League events. Thanks must be paid to Sally and Jack Southard for their patience and mentoring of the new Membership Chair.

The Membership Committee is committed to educating young women and men about the work of the League. One important function this year has been Fair Districts. Jenny Fisher has conducted training for Fair Districts and provided petition forms at numerous community and League events. Through her tireless efforts more people have become aware of the League’s work that leads to increased membership.

We are making efforts to reach out to university students who want to be more involved citizens in our democracy. Young people are becoming increasingly engaged in voting and finding avenues to express their hopes for our government. As Membership Chair, I have met with faculty and Miami University students with the hope of speaking to both the Democratic and Republican student organizations. I am seeking opportunities to speak with high school government classes to plant seeds of hope for the future. Young people are the future and we seek their input, ideas and commitment to a just society. We look forward to the energy of new members and the wisdom of long time members.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Membership Director

Communications/Publicity Report

The Communications/Publicity Committee added two new members in 2017-2018:

- 1) Diana Uhlman began working with our website administrator, Stacey Peterson.
- 2) Jenny Fisher joined Jacque Rioja Velarde to facilitate Facebook postings. Jacque will not continue as Facebook Administrator in the coming year because of increasing professional and personal commitments. Jenny has agreed to serve as Facebook Administrator when Jacque steps down May 1, 2018. The Committee thanks Jacque for her enthusiasm, dedication and expertise. She has for the last three years promoted our League through Facebook as a vital presence in our community and beyond.

Website: Stacey Peterson reports the following:

The website continues to post a variety of content, including news, calendar updates, observer reports, election information, the annual Voter Guide and the annual Government Services guide. Site traffic remained steady in 2017 compared with 2016 with more than 4,000-page views per month. With the contentious local election in the fall of 2017, we saw a traffic surge in October and November with more than 5,000-page views in November alone. Traffic has remained high through early 2018, with nearly 4,900 page views in both January and February of this year.

We are investigating signing an agreement to replace the existing League Easy Web website with a new one using the League's recently announced MyLO platform. MyLO provides a modern, dynamic web experience with up-to-date user interface and security, as well as easier-to-use admin tools. The annual subscription for the service is \$400, an increase from the \$250 we currently pay. We would have one website, instead of one public and one private as in the current system. The Board voted to increase the Communications/Publicity budget for 2018-2019 to cover the cost of the new website.

Facebook: Jacque Rioja Velarde reports the following:

As of March 6, 2018, the Facebook site has 338 Likes. The week of Feb 26- March 4 "Post Engagement" has been as high as 300%, and "People Reach" was as high as 205 people. Posting on the site has increased significantly this last year, both on the Timeline and the Calendar of events, which has contributed to expanding the visibility of the LWVOx on social media and other community promotional outlets. The League could reach a larger audience for signature events through a "Boost" function. A credit card or PayPal account is needed for that purpose.

Other recommendations: 1) Create a submission form to keep the consistency of the text content of the Timeline postings and Calendar of events. Social media requires short text content and/or a link. Having an image for the postings are highly recommended. If a related image for the posting is not available -we always use the league's logo. The "Notes" feature on FB site can be used for longer announcements, press releases or articles. 2) Create a fluid connection between our website and our Facebook site so we can increase the traffic of users. 3) Consider setting up a "Donate" Page button for fundraising 4) encourage league members to post a 'Review' on the Facebook site to attract a larger audience.

Facebook: Jenny Fisher reports the following:

Currently, 338 people currently "like" our Facebook page and 332 people currently "follow" us. These numbers have drastically increased in the past year. On March 6, 2017, 230 people followed our page. Over the past year, we have seen a steady increase in followers as we gained 102 people in only one year. In the days around our Candidate Forum in the Fall, we saw our numbers increase by 31 people in only 4 days. We continued to add followers at a high rate until November 7th. For most community members, once they 'hit follow,' they continued to follow our organization. We only had two individuals who "unfollowed" us; one in October and one in early January. The "reach" from many of our Facebook posts were excellent. The "reach" is defined as how many people have our post move across their screen. We have not paid to "boost" any of our posts. This has to do with how many people are liking, sharing, and commenting on our posts. Our most active period with regards to "reach" falls between October and November of 2017. On some days, our posts reached as many as 2,300 people. Our posts routinely reach anywhere from 30 to 250 people on a normal day. To date, 78% of our fans are women and 19% are men. Our largest demographic group is women over 65 years which make up 19% of our followers. Our second largest demographic (16% of our followers) are women between 35 and 44.

The Facebook page has been a successful way to reach community members on some of our issues, in particular, the Fair Districts/Fair Elections petition drive to end gerrymandering in Ohio. The Facebook platform has allowed us to increase visibility to some members of the community who would not normally be interested in our activities or mission. In the past year, we have increased our activity on Facebook, and we believe that has directly resulted in increased followers and increased traffic to our page.

Press, print and digital: Toni Saldivar reports the following:

We continue to utilize as many media sources as possible (most of them digital) to disseminate our announcements and press releases. Those sources include *The Oxford Press*, *Oxford-Miami U PATCH*, *Enjoyoxford.org* (newsletters/community calendar); Talawanda School District Communication; Oxford Village Network (OVN); our own website and Facebook, as well as our LWVOx newsletter THE VOTER, which is sent digitally to members and friends of the League. The Director of Communication is now responsible for assigning and organizing submissions to The VOTER and coordinating with its publisher and editor Alice Laatsch the deadlines for each Issue. We make limited use of flyers but do post them in such places as the Oxford Lane Library, Oxford Seniors, and the Enjoy Oxford kiosk in the Uptown Park. We also send appropriate announcements to selected church bulletins including those of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church where many of our programs are now held.

We continue to use our own system of administrative approval of and coordination for public messaging. We guard our public image as both enlightened and non-partisan. When the LWV logo was used without permission in a political communication which targeted Miami University personnel and supported particular candidates in the local election of 2017, we published our condemnation of such unethical use in the *Oxford-Miami U PATCH*.

Respectfully submitted by Toni Saldivar, Director of Communications/Publicity

Observer Corps Report

This year we have had three observers. Prue Dana has been observing Oxford City Council, Jane Fryman has observed Oxford Township Trustees, and Anna Kelly has observed the Talawanda School District Board meetings. Reports are listed on the members-only LWVOx site. Minutes of the meetings also can be found at the websites of each of the governmental organizations. If you are curious about observing for the League, call us, as we would like to have a fellow member attend.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Fryman, Observer Corps Director

Program Report

Our first program of the year was held September 25. Our topic, "Making Democracy Work Locally," focused attention on pertinent issues demanding voter's attention. City Manager, Doug Elliott made a presentation detailing the importance of the Oxford City ballot issue that asked for 12 amendments to the City Charter Amendment. He explained that most were to update regulations that were technologically obsolete or that were deemed unnecessary with other changes in daily operations. Dr. Melissa Thomasson provided needed insight into the controversial and confusing Issue 2. Finally, Jenny Fisher encouraged our continued efforts to get the petitions signed for the Fair Districts=Fair Elections Campaign.

Our Annual Candidates Forum took place on October 5 at the Knolls. This year was especially good because races for City Council and School were contested, generating a great deal of interest in the election.

The first semester Brown Bag Lunch Meeting at Patterson Place (November 13) on "Reproductive Rights" produced a very lively discussion. Susan Momeyer, past-president of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio reflected on her career with the organization from a small office in Oxford to becoming the regional director.

Dec. 7, 2017, saw a wonderful turnout of elected officials for our Social: Meet and Greet at the Oxford Community Arts Center. This event has proved to be popular with our members, citizens in the community and the officials.

On Jan. 17, 2018, our program Wednesday, "Local Successes and Future Challenges for the Talawanda School District," featured Kelly Spivey, Superintendent of the Talawanda School District, and Dr. Mary Jane Roberts, current Talawanda School Board member. This program highlighted the district's current educational concerns, which are "quite different from a decade ago." Both presenters discussed the challenges facing the district as methods of evaluating student, teacher, and school's performance change and legislative mandates demand curricular programming that is often not in sync with what teachers may feel is best. While they both feel Talawanda provides high quality education with dedicated teachers, they and the audience recognized the need to pay attention to the gaps at the pre-K level.

Our February 22 Brown Bag Lunch Meeting featured Patricia Newberry of Miami University's Journalism program speaking on "News Literacy," with an emphasis on strategies for meeting the need for timely and relevant news in the Oxford community.

Our March 14 meeting focused on efforts for the City of Oxford to sign on to the "Global Covenant of Mayor's for Climate Change and Energy." Two members from the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability at Miami University presented their research findings on the topic.

Respectfully submitted by Sandi Woy-Hazleton, Co-President for Program

Redistricting Report

Starting in Spring 2017, local members organized to push redistricting reform in Ohio. Our local chapter provided several training classes to League members and members of the community on the basics of gerrymandering, redistricting reform, and how to circulate a petition. By the time the Fair Districts Fair Elections petitions were approved by the Ohio Ballot Board, our local League was organized and ready to circulate the petitions in Butler County.

Summer 2017 was an explosion of activity as League members and our trained volunteers circulated petitions around neighborhoods and at events. Volunteers working out of Oxford collected thousands of signatures during that time. There was a lot of enthusiasm, excitement, and our volunteers were working their fingers to the bone.

In the fall of 2017, the Fair Districts leaders were focusing on voter education and trying to get articles in the local newspapers. Each time a petition holder approached a member of the public, it took a fairly long time to explain the issue and to secure the signature. Local leaders were successful in increasing the visibility of the project through Facebook and the Oxford-Miami University *PATCH* newspaper and also with one article in the *Hamilton Journal-News*. The objective was to educate the public so that they would come find us to sign the petition!

Following the burst of energy displayed in the summer, many of the volunteers found themselves with 'volunteer fatigue' in the fall. The Fair Districts leaders were focused on networking and trying to find fresh volunteers who were willing to be trained and circulate petitions. The leaders also connected with other groups collecting signatures elsewhere in Butler County and supported and cheered them on.

Although the rate of signatures collected in the fall had slowed, the volunteers still kept connected and the project continued to move forward with signatures being submitted to Columbus.

Winter 2018 was the most upsetting and stressful time in our "year of redistricting." While our local League had worked so hard, and we watched an army of grass-root volunteers mobilize across the

state in 2017, the whole project felt threatened. Per the rules, our citizen initiative could only get on the November ballot. A group of Ohio senators was trying to get their own redistricting reform onto the primary ballot in May.

The newspapers originally reported that a bipartisan committee in the Ohio Senate was taking on redistricting, but by January 2018 it was clear that the Democratic senators had been pushed out of the process and that Senator Matt Huffman (R) was proposing redistricting "reform" that was confusing and would have institutionalized cracking and packing (two main techniques used in partisan gerrymandering).

The Fair District volunteers were furious. In Oxford, our local League used Facebook to boost the Action Alerts that were being issued by LWV-Ohio. It felt like those Action Alerts weren't being issued fast enough and our local league was sending e-mails to our membership, our Fair District volunteers, and Facebook posts to community members to CALL YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. Several members of our community submitted written testimonies to be read at committee meetings and to be entered as official record. Many League and community members wrote postcards and made those phone calls.

Just two days before the deadline to get a measure on the May ballot, the Ohio senators working on redistricting compromised with Fair Districts. They dropped their plan and submitted a substitute bill that had the Fair Districts (and LWV-Ohio) endorsement to the committee. This bill, now State Issue 1, was passed with wide margins by the Ohio Senate and then the Ohio House. It's now headed for the May ballot.

Although the spring of 2018 is only just beginning, our local League is focused on the "get out the vote" effort. We plan to mobilize our community to get out and vote yes on State Issue 1 through flyers, yard signs, and Facebook posts.

Respectfully Submitted: Jenny Fisher, Fair Districts Coordinator

Voter Services Report

Voter Registration began with the Independence Day Parade, and it did not cease until Election Day, Nov. 7, 2017. However, registering voters this year was difficult. On Women's Equality Day, the University restricted us to a 3rd floor office in Armstrong. Needless to say, we registered 7 voters rather than the 200 of the year before! Kroger's also withdrew our usual registration with the NAACP set up at the entryway. We tried to make up for this by positioning ourselves in front of City Hall and at the Diversity Festival uptown, partnering with the College Dems, the College Republicans, and the NAACP.

Once again, we worked extremely well with Kevin Chrisler of Cox media to create an excellent printed Voters Guide. For the third year, we created VOTE411 for our district.

Thanks goes to Becky Quay the go-to person for registration forms and information. Thanks to members who volunteered for all the coverage at events. A special thanks to Rhonda Jackson who took care of the distribution of the Voter Guide on campus.

It was gratifying that there were more than the usual number of people running for local offices. Every office except one had a contested race.

I think a yearly discussion of the Voter Guide is in order. You will notice that issues are more “meaty” than in years past. We found we could add additional questions and that we are able to fund a bigger Voters Guide.

The Candidate Forum also needs to be reviewed. We had fifteen candidates come this year. The rotation worked well. Once again, we made candidates really work with our “Speed Candidacy,” and people who attended learned a lot. One hundred fifty people attended the Forum. Township Trustee Gary Salmon had some very constructive suggestions, and we will work to incorporate his comments into our forum. Your feedback is also welcome.

The 2018 Government Services Directory was updated, folded, and distributed in record time; 1,500 copies are about half out now. Thank you to Sandy Drewes, Carol Hennessy, Tracie Wilson, City Offices, School Board Offices, and all who did the physical update. We printed the 2018 version on larger paper and added more white space. Heather, from Letterman did all the corrections.

To Rosie Pelfhrey and all who folded, “Thank you!”

Kids Voting continues. It is incorporated into the lesson plans of 3rd through 12th grades. Many thanks to the teachers who do this program as a part of their curriculum. We especially thank Matthew Rand, technology head at the Talawanda schools. Matt sets up the ballot and tallies.

Respectfully submitted by Prue Dana, Co-President for Voter Services

Treasurer’s Report

Fund Balances, as of March 17, 2018

Education Fund	\$2,874.57
General Fund	\$4,088.82
Oxford Community Foundation:	
Endowment Fund	\$15,500
Kids Voting	\$8,000

LWVOx Education Fund Budget 2018-2019 (Rev. 3-9-2018)

	2017-2018 Budget	2018-2019 Proposed Budget
<u>Income</u>		
Miscellaneous Contributions		
Members	\$1,400	\$900
Non-Members	\$800	
State		
Subtotal	\$2,200	\$900
<u>Other Income</u>		
LWV/Oxford Endowment – Oxford Community Foundation		\$200
Interest		
Grants		
Check Acct/ Transfer from reserves	\$450	\$1,900
Subtotal	\$450	\$2,100
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,650	\$3,000
<u>Expenses</u>		
Operating Costs		
Admin/Audit		
Supplies		
Subtotal		
Voter Services		
Purchases (411)	\$300	\$350
Food OCAC Event		
Printing	\$20	\$100
Subtotal	\$320	\$450
Voter Information		
Govt Services Directory	\$200	\$600
Kids Voting	\$500	\$600
VIG	\$1,500	\$400
Cand Forum	\$30	\$30
Special Programs	\$100	
Subtotal	\$2,330	\$1,630
PMP25%OH		\$320
PMP50%US		\$600
Subtotal		\$920
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,650	\$3,000

LWVOx General Fund 2018-2019 (Rev. 3-9-2018)

	2017-2018 Budget	2018-2019 Proposed Budget
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$3,500	\$3,500
Contributions		
Non-Members	\$600	
Members	\$600	\$750
In-kind		
Subtotal	\$1,200	\$750
Check Acct./Transfer from reserves	\$1,005	\$1,717
Subtotal	\$1,005	\$1,717
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,705	\$5,967
<u>Expenses</u>		
Operating Costs		
General Supplies	\$75	
Audit		
Bank Charges		
PO Box	\$70	\$72
Subtotal	\$145	\$72
Board Admin Costs		
President		\$50
Secretary		
Treasurer	\$50	
Copies/printing		
Subtotal	\$50	\$50
Admin Committees	\$150	
Membership/Social	\$200	\$150
Program/Social	\$150	\$200
Program Planning Social Event	\$300	\$200
Public Relations/Publicity		\$25
Subtotal	\$800	\$575
Meetings/Affiliations		
Conventions		
National	\$500	\$500
State		
Local		

Councils		
National		
State		
Workshops		
Subtotal	\$500	\$500
Financial Support of League		
PMP - National	\$2,300	\$1,700
PMP - State	\$1,400	\$960
Subtotal	\$3,700	\$2,660
Communications		
VIG		\$1,400
Voter	\$60	\$60
Website	\$450	\$650
Subtotal	\$510	\$2,110
Position Activities		
Studies/Programs		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,705	\$5,967

Respectfully submitted by Ginny Scott, Treasurer

League of Women Voters of Oxford

Local Program Positions

Approved April 2015

GOVERNMENT

Support of the HOME RULE CHARTER for the City of Oxford (1963).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE: Support of sound fiscal policies and practices for the City of Oxford that: provide for the basic needs of the citizens; are based on a mix of progressive and regressive revenues and rational expenditures; allow revenue sources to be earmarked; promote user fees which are more consistent with actual cost; encourage the State of Ohio to reimburse the city for the actual cost of services provided to Miami University; allow for the use of incentives to entice business; and include the school district in the tax abatement process (1990).

Support the use of PREFERENCE VOTING for Oxford City Council and Talawanda City School District elections (1997).

SOCIAL POLICY

Support of AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL REMODELING AND BUILDING PROGRAM where educational goals can be maintained with teachers, parents and taxpayers involved in the planning (1985).

Support of a HIGH DEGREE OF EXCELLENCE IN LOCAL EDUCATION BASED ON FLEXIBLE BLEND OF STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING, supplemented with federal funding. This means that: Additional local, state and federal support for education means that citizens must support additional taxation; Federal money for specific programs which meet local needs should be encouraged (1978); and Revise the school funding formula according to the decisions of the Ohio Supreme Court (2005).

Support LIBRARY FACILITIES AND SERVICE in the City of Oxford and the Talawanda School District (1970; amended 2005).

Support of an effective RECREATION AND PARKS PROGRAM including: Specific delineation of the duties and responsibilities of the Recreation Board; Long-range recreation planning; a capital improvements fund for recreation; and Cooperation with groups involved with recreation in the Talawanda School District (1975).

Support for the SENIOR CITIZENS AND COMMUNITY CENTER for the provision of services and activities to older citizens in the Oxford area financed by public and private funding (1979, amended 1982).

Support of LOCAL, CONSISTENT TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY AND/OR DISABLED in the Oxford area financed by public and private funding (1979; amended 2010, 2013, 2015)

Support of HUMAN SERVICES, especially children's services, for Butler County and the Oxford community through both public and private agencies; support of services for children and their families, including: (a) professional diagnosis of social, learning, medical and psychological/psychiatric disabilities, and (b) innovation and coordination of quality programs for protection, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, including temporary care (1986).

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION: Support of environmentally responsible approaches in and around Oxford for self-supporting management of cars, creation of bicycle paths, improved sidewalk or pedestrian access, and public transportation. Such approaches would consider: the creation of a parking authority to operate and finance parking; a master bike plan –safe, designated and integrated with other systems, proper bicycle education about safe riding behavior and the use of safety helmets, and cost of existing public transportation and alternative services for test populations (1997; amended 2005, 2010, 2013).

Support CITY PLANS TO INCREASE AVAILABILITY AND QUALITY OF HOUSING for low & moderate households. Increase housing options for: seniors, the disabled, first-time home buyers, residents who live in substandard housing, and households that earn their living in Oxford. Promote a variety of housing styles and types for rent and for purchase that are integrated within the community. Support strategies including: public and private partnerships and grants, development agreements, rehabilitation, fee waivers, density bonuses, and an affordable housing trust fund (2005, 2013, 2015).

NATURAL RESOURCES

Support of policies and practices that are environmentally current, economically feasible and in regulatory compliance. Support inter-jurisdictional solutions, arrived at with public input and sustained by an informed public for natural resource management in the following areas:

WATER: Maintain high quality water supply through conservation and facility maintenance.

SOLID WASTE: Promote reducing, reusing and recycling of solid waste.

LAND USE: Encourage green space and conservation development. Require an impact study for all annexation requests and land use plans. Annex land that the city now provides with city services (2014, 2015).

ENERGY: Support of locally initiated community-based collaborative projects for energy conservation (2013).

LWVOx Officers and Board Members, 2017-2018

Co-President for Organization—Sibyl Harris Miller (2016-2018)

Co-President for Voter Services—Prue Dana (2017-2018)

Co-President for Program—Sandi Woy-Hazleton (2016-2018)

Secretary—Sandy Drewes (2016-2018)

Treasurer—Ginny Scott (2016-2018)

Director of Membership—Kathy McMahon-Klosterman (2017-2019)

Director of Communications/Publicity—Toni Saldivar (2016-2018)

Director of Observer Corps—Jane Fryman (2017-2018)

Directors of Portfolios

Government—Steve Dana (2016-2018)

Natural Resources—Michelle Boone (2017-2019)

Social Policy—Pat Willeke (2016-2018)

International—Warren Mason (2017-2019)

Other elected positions (Off-Board)

Nominating Committee—Harv Roehling (Chair), Steve Gordon, Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, and Toni Saldivar—two members appointed by the Board

Additional Leadership Positions (Appointed, Off-Board)

Facebook Administrator—Jacque Rioja Velarde, with Jennie Fisher

Website Administrator—Stacey Peterson

VOTER editor/publisher—Alice Laatsch

Nominating Committee Report

Harv Roehling, Chair

Slate for Election at 2018 Convention

Co-President for Organization—Sibyl Harris Miller (2018-2020)

Co-President for Voter Services—Prue Dana (2018-2020)

Co-President for Program—Sandi Woy-Hazleton (2018-2020)

Secretary—Kathie Brinkman (2018-2020)

Treasurer—Ginny Scott (2018-2020)

Directors

Communications/Publicity—Toni Saldivar (2018-2019)

Observer Corps—Harv Roehling (2018-2020)

Directors of Portfolios

Government—Steve Dana (2018-2020)

Social Policy—Traci Wilson (2018-2020)

Nominating Committee, Off-Board, (2018-2019)

Harv Roehling (Chair), Steve Gordon, Judy Kolbas, plus two others appointed by the Board

Additional Leadership Positions (Appointed, Off-Board)

Facebook Administrator—Jenny Fisher

Website Administrators—Stacey Peterson with Diane Uhlman

VOTER editor/publisher—Alice Laatsch