



Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The Oxford Voter

April, 2019

For Your Calendar

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 pm to 9 pm Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building, Oxford Climate Summit,
Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building, Local Convention



COME ONE, COME ALL

66th Local Convention of the League of Women Voters of Oxford!

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building, 1st floor 104 E. Church Street, Oxford, Ohio

Let's celebrate our successes in Making Democracy Work
and recommit to work together this year to uphold this crucial Mission.

Festive refreshments will be served!

See the Call to Local Convention Packet sent to you recently.

(The Packet is also included here with this email of the Voter, for your convenience.)



Oxford Climate Summit

This important meeting, hosted and facilitated by your LWVOx, will take place on Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building, 1st floor 104 E. Church Street, Oxford, Ohio



Our commitment to the environment: Eliminate Single-use Plastics and Food Waste

Kathie Brinkman

“The League’s environmental goals aim to prevent ecological degradation, and to reduce and control pollutants before they go down the sewer, up the chimney or into the landfill....” Quoted from LWV US position on the environment.

At all levels of our organization, national, state and local, the League’s commitment to the environment is apparent in the positions that we adopt, the concerns that we bring to our planning sessions and the meeting topics that we offer to our members. We value our environment and we know that it’s at risk. With that in mind, LWV Oxford has made a commitment that our local events will uphold our positions on the environment.

Whenever possible, we will not use single-use plastic items, as these items are used for a few minutes but live in our landfills and oceans for hundreds of years. If we offer drinks or food at our events, we will serve them in reusable or biodegradable cups and plates.

We also know that there is a lot of food waste in our country. We’re pleased that the City of Oxford has instituted a voluntary food composting program, as this is a great way to get compostable leftovers out of the landfill. Another good way is to not have leftovers in the first place.

We’ve noted that a lot of our members are avoiding the refreshments often available at evening programs and brown-bag lunches and we get that! Focus on health and nutrition is high – who needs to be tempted by a cookie? And what should we do with all those leftovers? Our answer is to eliminate refreshments at evening meetings and brown-bag lunches and offer these items at our longer events such as program planning, local convention, the elected official reception, etc. At these bigger events members are in attendance longer and take advantage of food and drink in a more social setting.

We’re committed to doing our part in eliminating waste and protecting the environment.



Voter Service April 2019

Please stop by the Dana back porch (131 West Collins St.) to pick up Government Services Directories. Most have already gone out, but you may think of a few places that can supply these GSD.

Take note: ***There is a Primary May!***



Digital News Sources for Our Local News

Toni Saldivar

You may already be reading your favorite national newspapers digitally as they come daily into your email. What do you read for local news? For Butler County, (as well as for Ohio, national and world news), the *Hamilton Journal-News* (CoxMedia) offers good coverage daily and includes with your subscription a digital edition of *The Oxford Press* each Sunday. <https://journalnews.subscriber.services>

You can also access two free digital local newspapers:

1) The excellent weekly *Oxford Observer*, edited by Miami faculty, David Wells, and written by Miami journalism students, covers Oxford area news and events. It is a free digital news service to the Oxford community made possible by an arrangement between Miami University Department of Journalism and the Oxford Community Foundation. This is a pilot project running through the fall of 2019 with the goal of making the *Oxford Observer* "a permanent fixture" in our community. Use this link to access *The Oxford Observer*: <http://www.oxfordobserver.org/>

2)The daily *Oxford-Miami University PATCH* is a digital news platform that relies on abundant advertising to give support to small communities that otherwise could not afford a newspaper of their own. Each PATCH local community, via local contributors, provides articles and announcements to keep the community informed and connected. Oxford Seniors and the League of Women Voters-Oxford, for example, are posting articles and announcements on PATCH. The more local readers and contributors, the better. Subscribe: <https://patch.com/ohio/miamiuniversity-oxford/subscribe>



Thank you, Toni, for all of Your Service to LWVOx

We want to express our deep gratitude to our Director of Communications, Toni Saldivar, who has served in a leadership role in our League for 10 years, almost all of it in Communications. Toni tells our story and carries our crucial positions to Greater Oxford and the wider Butler County and regional communities, with excellence, professionalism, and highly engaging writing. She has vastly extended our reach, our influence, and our visibility. As she steps down from her Directorship, we want Toni to know we will always be thankful to her for the multiple successes she has had in finding communication opportunities to propel our Mission forward. She truly is Making Democracy Work!

Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization



LWV-Oxford League President Honored

Toni Saldivar

Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization, League of Women Voters of Oxford, was recently honored by the Oxford City Council with a proclamation read by Mayor Kate Rousmaniere and presented to Sibyl in recognition of her life-long commitment to social justice, both as a professional and as a volunteer.

The proclamation was in recognition of Miller's receiving two 2019 awards from the YWCA Hamilton: The Outstanding Woman of Achievement Award and the Dr. Julia Goodman Award. Goodman, the first woman medical doctor in Butler County, was the founder of the YWCA Hamilton in 1900. The mission of the organization is to eliminate racism, empower women, and promote peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

In her acceptance speech at the YWCA awards banquet at the Courtyard Marriott in Hamilton on March 20, Sibyl stated, "The most meaningful civil rights work that I was able to do in the 1960s was organized by the national office of the YWCA. They trained college students on non-violent philosophy and tactics, and sent us

to different parts of the South to do voter registration. We helped many people register to vote for the first time, and I gained a life-changing exposure to the brutal and brazen racism, battering our country."

After graduating from Miami University ('66), Sibyl her husband, William Miller (MU '67) moved to New York City where they earned graduate degrees, established careers in social service, and raised their two children. Thirty-five years later, the Millers returned to Butler County and began raising 100%-grass-fed beef on their Certified-Organic Harris-Miller Farm. Sibyl then served as the Executive Director of the YWCA Hamilton for ten years, retiring in 2010. Her husband is the Vice President of the Ohio Farmers Union and advocates for family farms in Washington, DC and in Columbus. Both Millers are active in the NAACP and the League of Women Voters of Oxford.

Sibyl finds the League's mission "making democracy work" consistent with YWCA's mission to end racism and empower women. As Sibyl put it at the awards banquet, "The synergy of these two missions is a clear call to action for making our dear country live up to its promise of liberty and justice for all... We must work to protect voting rights now."

Congratulations, Sibyl, and thank you for your outstanding leadership In the League of Women Voters of Oxford and in our Oxford community.



Oxford Mayor Kate Rousmaniere presents Sibyl Harris Miller with a City of Oxford Proclamation honoring Sibyl for her decades of civic action that were recognized by the Hamilton YWCA with the 2019 Outstanding Women of Achievement Award and the Dr. Julia Goodman Award.



Sibyl I(r.) holds the Dr. Julia Goodman Award at the Hamilton YWCA awards banquet on March 20. With her (l. to r.) are her husband William Miller, their daughter from New York, Amy Miller Moore, and their son from Chicago, Bill Miller.





Our Recent Accomplishments

Advocates for Butler County Voters

In the November 2018 election the Butler County Board of Elections sent out flawed Absentee Ballot envelopes to voters, which led to voters not filling in the ID information completely. Ohio law was going to prevent those votes from being counted, even though voters were not at fault and could be identified completely by the ID info they entered.

We met with and sent letters to the county board of elections as well as the Ohio Secretary of State, stating that the votes should be counted. When we received no response we brought in an attorney as well. We won!

Advocates to End Gerrymandering

Leagues across Ohio worked for months to get 320,000 signatures on a ballot measure to end gerrymandering of congressional districts in Ohio. Our local league was the leader in our area in training volunteers and collecting signatures.

Our efforts brought the state legislature to the bargaining table and in May 2018 an initiative to limit gerrymandering was resoundingly passed by voters! Effective for the 2022 elections, new congressional districts will be in place. The Ohio League of Women Voters is working with the ACLU on a court case that, if won, would end gerrymandering sooner – for the 2020 elections.

Who We Are

League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan grassroots political organization. Our local league is one of 700 leagues nationwide, across all 50 states.

We:

- Register new voters
- Host candidate forums
- Provide voters with election information: Vote411.org
- Engage at the local & state level on legislative priorities & efforts to improve elections
- Fight voter suppression
- Advocate to reduce money in politics
- Take a stand on social issues including school quality, human trafficking, juvenile justice, equal rights, etc.
- Are committed to the protection of natural resources & action to protect our climate

LWVOx Vibrant and Growing!

The Oxford League of Women Voters is a vibrant, engaged group. We are delighted with the innovative and constructive ideas contributed by new members. We hope to attract increasing numbers of young people who are determined to 'Make Democracy Work' and can bring additional energy to our work.

The League has held several events in and for the community since July. Each one has brought in 20-25 or more people to learn, discuss and share ideas. Most of the participants have been Oxford LWV members but usually we have one or two visitors who consider joining our chapter after attending a program. As we continue to offer informative programming, we anticipate a growing membership. Presently we have ninety-one (91) members and numerous others who assure me they intend to join. We look forward to welcoming new members, so spread the word!

Please invite your friends to join as well because we have lots of activities ahead and need your ideas and energy. You can mail your membership 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 address above.

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

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

Student Dues \$30.00 _____ (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 \$ _____

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Name of additional member in household ** _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

*** Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

Preferred Email address _____

*** Preferred Email address _____

The League of Women Voters of Oxford welcomes all members. Discounted dues of \$30.00 is available upon request. Yearly membership is from July 1- June 30. A person can join at any time.

