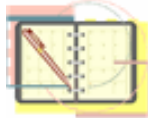




THE VOTER

The monthly publication of the Toledo-Lucas County League of Women Voters

Save the Date!



- March 21 LWV Bowling
Green imPACT
Town Hall Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Simpson Building
1291 Conneaut Avenue
- March 22 General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Reynolds Corners Library
Dr. Patsy Scott, City of
Toledo Information and
Communication Technology
Director, will talk about new
trends in technology and
update us on Toledo's
wireless internet capability.
- March 27 LWV Perrysburg Meeting,
7:00 p.m., Way Library
101 E. Indiana Avenue
Speakers: Robert
Stevenson, Gary Haydel,
Toledo Waterways Initiative,
Perrysburg Wastewater
Treatment Plant
- April 24 LWV Perrysburg Meeting,
7:00 p.m., Way Library
Speaker: Dr. Bernard
Marcus, Climate Change
- March 29 State House Day
Riffe Center, Columbus
- April 16 Board Meeting
- May 4 & 5 State Convention
Sheraton Suites,
Cuyahoga Falls
- May 10 Second Annual
Signature Event
- May 14 Board Meeting
- May 24 General Meeting /
Annual Meeting
- June 11 Joint Board Meeting

Statehouse Day is March 29

Every year LWVO sponsors a day in Columbus where local Leaguers come to learn about what's happening at the Statehouse of interest to LWV. This year a new format is being tried. Instead of lobbying each of our state reps or senators, Leaguers and LWVO



Photo: www.ohiostatehouse.org

lobbyists are going to discuss issues of importance to them with the official or legislative staff having direct responsibility for the issue. The expectation is that these sessions will result in much information sharing and less political posturing.

A keynote address by **John Corlett**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Center for Community Solutions, will be the kick off to this day of immersion in issue information. The rest of the morning will be devoted to workshops led by LWVO lobbyists and other experts in health care, election reform, education funding, watershed protection and factory farms, home rule and gun violence. Over lunch the lobbyists, workshop leaders and Leaguers will have an opportunity to share perspectives and ideas before going on to the discussions with officials about our issues. A visit to our reps' and senators' offices is still included but with the purpose of dropping off some LWVO materials.

This is a great way to learn about League advocacy positions and the intricacies of politics in Columbus. **The registration form for Statehouse Day** was sent to every Leaguer in the Ohio Voter and by electronic mail as well as in every paper copy of last month's and the current LWVTLC Voter. To download a registration form go to lwvohio.org and click on statehouse day on the right border of the webpage. Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your League voice. If you are looking for a ride or want to drive, please call the League line 419-475-4371.

March General Meeting

What is **Wi-Fi** and why is the city planning to go Wi-Fi? Is this a waste of money in the current budgetary crunch or the wave of the future? (Pun intended.) Come to the **March 22** general



meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Reynolds Corners Library to hear **Dr. Patsy F. Scott**, Director of Information and Communications Technology for the City of Toledo give us the inside scoop on Wi-Fi and the city's proposed program. If you'd like to get a little more familiar with the subject before the meeting, visit the Wi-Fi Alliance website www.Wi-FiAlliance.com

Report on the Program Planning Meeting

Last Month's general meeting was attended by a small group of Leaguers who grappled with the task of examining each of the LWVO positions for advocacy and recommending to retain, update or drop them. Throughout the dinner meeting, there was spirited discussion and much questioning and commentary about language, intent and relevance of the positions and their various sub categories. LWVO has advocacy positions under three general categories: **Government**, **Social Policy** and **Natural Resources**. Each of these headings covers a number of areas that have been studied by League members over time and since adoption have been the basis for taking stands on issues.

The Government heading is divided into the Ohio Constitution, apportionment and redistricting, and state government finance. The Social Policy positions address primary, secondary and higher education, juvenile justice and capital punishment. Natural Resources positions cover water, solid waste, hazardous materials and hazardous waste, land use and interbasin transfer of water. LWVTLC Leaguers decided to retain, except for some language updating, all positions and had specific comments or questions which were passed along to the LWVO.

Local Leaguers thought the use of bipartisan in some descriptions of regulatory bodies or committees would limit involvement to only Democrats and Republicans, excluding other parties or unaligned individuals. There was also some discussion about where or whether the current controversy concerning estate tax fits into the League's positions and how or if the

League lobbyists could deal with this issue as the finance/tax mix positions stand. One aspect of the juvenile justice position calls for statewide standards of facilities, detention, handling of records, procedures etc. The group posed the question to LWVO about the current status of development of these statewide standards.

Although it was generally thought that the position on water was very well done, there was concern that the position on interbasin transfer of water sounded weak. A stronger wording was suggested that would make clear the League does not support water transfer without examination of all the potential effects in the expectation that pros and cons would be judiciously weighed. There was concern about where animal waste as an environmental hazard fit within the positions and if there should be wording specific to this increasingly dangerous threat to the watershed. Lastly, a suggestion was made to rank points listed in the land use portion according to priority with the use of zoning as a first priority step in regulation instead of last in a series of unranked regulatory techniques to encourage good land use.

A major concern is the lack of full participation of Ohio in the **Great Lakes Compact**, especially regarding interbasin transfer of water. LWVTLC Leaguers thought working for this participation should be the LWVO Natural Resources priority in 2007-2008.

These suggestions/comments/questions along with those of Leagues all over Ohio will be reviewed by the LWVO Board and become part of the work that will be done at the LWVO convention in May.

Upcoming LWV Perrysburg Events

The Perrysburg LWV is sponsoring two events of interest to environmentally concerned Leaguers. On **March 27 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Way Library, **Robert Stevenson**, head of the City of Toledo's Wastewater Treatment Plant and Director of the Toledo Waterways Initiative, will speak about this 450 million dollar rehabilitation of the sewer infrastructure. His presentation is titled "Toledo Waterways Initiative Program, Building for the Future." Also at this meeting, **Gary Hayde**, Water Pollution Control Superintendent, will report on the progress of the construction of the Perrysburg wastewater treatment plant. This program promises to provide useful information for citizens of both communities who are interested in the fate of Lake Erie, our source of water for all its uses.

On **April 24 at 7:00 p.m.** also at Way Library, **Dr. Bernard Marcus**, Professor of Biology, author and lecturer will speak on global warming and climate change. This program is titled "Turn Down the Heat! Plant a Forest!" He will attempt to help us to understand this issue and provide direction toward solutions. The Way Library is located at 101 E. Indiana Avenue in Perrysburg.

Think Green

Tips to Keep Our Environment Healthy

Don't drive a hybrid or get around by bicycle or foot power, but still concerned about CO2 emissions? Maybe you should look into buying **carbon offsets**. Carbon offsets neutralize your CO2 production by funding environmental projects, research and organizations that would not otherwise exist without the money you paid for the offset. There is a global marketplace for carbon offsets, and a system of verification which ensures that the offset you paid for is really happening, and can not be sold to anyone else. **TerraPass** and **Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF)** are examples of two brokers, to find others do a web search for CO2 reduction or carbon offsets. **Happy Motoring!**

From the US Dept. of Energy

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/home_office.html

Home Electronics Tips

- ◆ Look for energy-saving ENERGY STAR home electronics.
- ◆ Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. These "phantom" loads occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as VCRs, televisions, stereos, computers, and kitchen appliances. In the average home, 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off. This can be avoided by unplugging the appliance or using a power strip and using the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance.
- ◆ Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.

Environment, Health and Safety Online. This site advertises itself as the site for free, objective information you can use. <http://www.ehso.com/contents.php>

Presidents' Letter

- ◆ *Bonnie Bishop and Peg Hull Smith*



We made it through the winter and are moving forward, thinking of State House Day, Earth Day, the Signature Event, our Annual Meeting and the State Convention. Our Voter Editor, Ann Payne and her assistant Terry Mills are doing a great job keeping upcoming events on the calendar so please consider attending these special events as well as all general meetings.

Peg wrote a great piece for the last Voter on taking action on Action Alerts and I want to stress that our General Meetings are always informative and very helpful on understanding League's advocacy positions, as well as Voter Education topics.

I am happy to report that the Board of Elections has already started special training for Presiding Judge poll workers and Darcy Yates and I have already attended. We are both

pleased with the training and will both be attending another training before the next election. Any of you that want to become poll workers should really consider it. It is a wonderful community service and some of us contribute the earnings from Election Day to the League. Please call me at 419-474-5030 if you would like information on what you could do. Even if you don't want to be involved in setting up the machines there are other needs you could meet on Election Day.

Peg and I want to remind you that the TRY's are available at every general meeting and are also on line.

The Nominating Committee will soon meet and if you would like to recommend someone to sit on the Board, or to become an officer, or are interested in joining the Board yourself, let Peg know.

~ Bonnie and Peg



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*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages
informed and active participation in government, works to increase
understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy
through education and advocacy.*

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Visit The League at:
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