



THE VOTER

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

April 2008

2008 SIGNATURE EVENT OUR YOUTH: A COMMUNITY TO BELIEVE IN

The annual Signature Event this year will recognize individuals in the field of juvenile justice by honoring the following: Retired Juvenile Court Judge James Ray; Dr. Celia Williamson, Executive Director and founder of Second Chance and associate professor of social work at the University of Toledo; Harry E. Cummins, III, founder of the International Boxing Club of Toledo; Elesondra DeRomano, founder of Wake Up Youth, Jean Cook and Ruth Tzrnadel, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteers.

These recipients represent the human embodiment of aspects of the LWVO advocacy positions on juvenile justice, each in his or her own way helping local youth find a path toward stability. Guest speakers, Marilyn Sesler, LWVO juvenile justice lobbyist, and Dr. Morris Jenkins, associate professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Toledo, will share with the audience their special insights about current issues in the criminal justice system.

The award dinner is open to the public and will be held at the Reynolds Garden Cafe, 1220 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo on Thursday, April 24. Social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Members should look for their invitations in the mail. Anyone interested in attending may contact the league at 419-475-4371 for reservations or use the response form in this Voter.

This is our major fundraiser for the year so the committee hopes to see all the members, their friends, family, neighbors there supporting its efforts. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about the local efforts in the juvenile justice arena. It will also be an opportunity to sample more of the delicious food we had at last years event since we are using the same caterers but this time at their location.

ANNUAL MEETING MAY 22

In the spring of each year at the Annual Meeting, league members gather together to learn what we've done throughout the year, vote on who will lead us through the next year, how our finances are to be apportioned and what our program positions will be.

In preparation for the annual meeting all league members will be getting a special annual meeting packet in the mail after the April 14 board meeting. In accordance with the bylaws it will contain the proposed slate of officers, the proposed budget and the proposed program.

This year's meeting will be a potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the beautiful Toledo Botanical Gardens, in the Garden Forum House, so figure out a dish you plan to bring... all levels of culinary expertise or preference (as in homemade or efficient alternatives like deli, in and out, stop and go markets, etc.) greatly appreciated. This is a good opportunity to get together in a lovely setting and review the year and renew old friendships while we determine the direction of the upcoming year by electing officers and the board of directors, deciding on the program positions and how to handle our funds.

CONGRATULATIONS

The League congratulates member **Gabrielle Davis** for her Access to Justice Award presented by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE), Legal Aid of Northwestern, Ohio and the Toledo Bar Association. Access to Justice Awards are presented to those who have made outstanding contributions toward promoting and providing access to justice for the underprivileged and underserved. Ms. Davis received the Public Interest Law Award. Others honored are Neille D. Edward, the Community Advocacy Award and The Honorable David A. Katz, the Distinguished Service Award.

Ask Olive

Dear Olive,

OK, I voted in the primary and it wasn't the first time either but I just don't get it. Sometimes I'm asked what party I want to vote for and other times I'm asked if I want to vote issues only and other times I'm not asked at all about a party. What gives? Besides, I always thought it was nobody's business how I vote, so why do they ask me about parties in the first place?

- Confused but Conscientious.

Oh Dear CbutC,

Unfortunately you are not alone, this is a common misconception. It is easy to think that a democracy means individual voters elect individuals who are running for office without thinking about party affiliation or party politics but primary elections are really, most of the time, contests run by parties to decide who will be their standard bearer in the general election. In these cases the primary is sort of a poll to see who the party members want. So that is why you have to say which club you belong to in order to be able to vote for one its members.

When they don't ask you to declare a party, you are likely voting in a nonpartisan primary, for example in the local elections when you vote for council or mayor. Although even these are becoming more and more partisan-like. When this idea of non partisan local elections took hold it was to get party machine politics out of the picture, I know, I remember those times. It was a very good move. However it does seem that those times might be creeping back again...but I digress.

Getting an issues only ballot usually means you've declared yourself an independent, someone with no party affiliation, or have decided you do not wish to declare. It effectively excludes you from making a choice for any of the partisan candidates running in the primary. Now none of this excludes you from voting in the general election for the candidate of your choice who is running regardless of his or her or your party affiliation. And you of course will note in November, no one will ask you your party affiliation when you go to the polls.

Well my dear, I hope that answers your questions, I'm just very glad you did not ask me to explain the delegate situation. That would take more space than we have here. Oh I almost forgot: different states have different rules, if you move you'll have to ask another Olive.

*See you at the polls,
Olive*

Send your questions to **Ask Olive** by mailing them to P.O. Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606 or e-mailing them to info@lwvtoledo.org.

Olive Colton is a founding mother of the Toledo League of Women Voters now known as the League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County.

Special Notices

Thanks to **Sharon Friedman** for her contribution to the Operating fund.

The TRYS Are Ready

The 2008 They Represent You is available in paper copy from Bonnie Bishop or online at www.lwvtoledo.org. Copies of this annually published directory of public officials have been distributed to various organizations and public entities including every library, all the government offices, some senior centers and anyone who asks, free of charge. Yours is waiting for you at the next LWVTLC get together. Come and get it!

Healthcare Reform Workshop

Join Toledo Area Jobs with Justice and Ohio Consumers for Health Coverage for a Workshop for everyone who wants to be an effective communicator and advocate for Healthcare Reform. May 16, 2008 - 2 Workshops, one at 10AM to 2PM and another that starts at 5PM.

The Presenter and Moderator is Nick Unger, Director of AFL-CIO Healthcare Reform project, with special guests Rachel Rosen DeGolia, director Universal Health Care Action Network and Rev Linda Hanna Walling, Executive Director Faithful Reform in Healthcare.

League of Women Voters Announces Its Position on Immigration

The League position on immigration was announced April 2. After more than 18 months of study and with consensus documents submitted by 850 local Leagues the national board approved the position, summarized below.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S. To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

The entire text of the position statement can be found on the web at www.lwv.org.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER FOR STATEHOUSE DAY

You may have read the information in your LWVO Voter last month about this year's joint session of Council and Statehouse Day and glossed over it without another thought but rethink. This event is an opportunity to learn more about some important issues in Ohio and what League is doing or not doing about them.

You joined League because you are politically minded. Certain things matter to you. You decided there was a fit between what League represents and what you stand for. Statehouse day is a real education. It is a chance to meet and talk with leaguers from all over the state and the league volunteer lobby corps. You also will attend workshops with state legislators or their staffs on health care, paid sick leave, election administration reform, election and voting reform, education funding, and current issues concerning Lake Erie.

Columbus isn't that far away but the idea of the trip can be discouraging, however, most attendees car pool, making the ride as informative and fun as the sessions. So mark you calendar and go April 29th. For more info check out www.lwvohio.org to download the agenda and registration form, if you've already recycled your Ohio Voter. Call the league line 419-475-4371 to get into or drive for a car pool.

President's Letter - Bonnie Bishop, Co-President

As I write this I hear birds outside my window and such a pleasant sound it is! Spring is near and hopefully that means League events can happen as planned. No more weather related cancellations, we hope.

We survived the March 4 primary and Darcy Yates, Kathy Chamberlain and I all worked as presiding judges at the polls. League members have been poll workers for many years and we do our best to recruit others to do the same. Working the polls is a challenge and even more so this time because of ice and snow that had to be scraped off cars as we tried to drive home. Please consider being a poll worker for the November election.

The League phone line received many calls from concerned voters before and after the primary and it's great to know the League is considered a reliable resource for election information.

Program planning is a process that lets every member consider whether our existing public policy positions are still relevant. Only eight League members attended our Program planning meeting at the February general meeting when the LWVUS Program and our local Program were discussed. Those that attended participated well in the discussion and we will be adding an item to our local Program for Advocacy.

Thank you Sue Nichols! The TRY's (the publication They Represent You) for 2008 are printed and distributed. You can access it on-line as well, at our website, thanks to Terry Mills our webmaster. www.lwvtoledo.org. If you prefer a printed copy let us know.

We have not scheduled a general meeting for March and for April it's the Signature event on April 24, 2008. Please plan to attend. We will honor six local individuals that contributed to juvenile justice concerns.

Save the Date!

April

14 Board Meeting

24 Signature Event.

Reynolds Garden Cafe

1220 S. Reynolds Rd.

Social hour at 5:30 Dinner at 6:15 p.m.

Topic: Juvenile Justice.

29 Statehouse Day, LWVO Columbus

May

12 Board Meeting

22 Annual Meeting. 6:00 p.m. Garden
Forum House at the Toledo Botanical
Gardens

5403 Elmer Dr. Meeting location is
small white house to the right just
inside Elmer Dr. gates.

June

13-17 National Convention, Portland OR

19 Joint Board Meeting



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Toledo-Lucas County
PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606
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**The League of Women Voters of
Toledo-Lucas County is a member of
Northwest Ohio Community Shares**



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