



# **THE VOTER**

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

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January 2009

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## **SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE SITE OF JAN. 26 PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**

The meeting to assess the LWVO program for advocacy will be held at the Spaghetti Warehouse at 42 S. Superior St. in downtown Toledo immediately following a brief board meeting which starts at 5 pm. Program planning is an opportunity for all members to make their voices heard regarding the positions that are the basis for league advocacy and education efforts. It is the time to examine and suggest changes, deletions, additions to the position statements. It is also a great opportunity, if you are new to league or have never looked closely at the league positions, to become more familiar with what league stands for and on what those stands are based.

The LWVO Agenda for Action is reviewed by local leagues every other year in preparation for the biannual state convention. This is the grassroots part of league. Local leagues' input is reviewed by the state board which develops a recommended and non recommended program to be presented at the convention in May where local leagues will continue the discussion and debate before determining the final product.

Attached to this Voter are summaries of the current positions, the starting point for the discussion. Is there something you thought was missing this year in our approach to advocacy or our education efforts? Take a look at the position statements or download the complete document from the web at <http://www.lwvohio.org/Advocacy/Agenda%20for%20Action%2007-09.pdf> for more detailed and historical information about each position.

### **CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTS YOU**

by Jonnie Taylor

Toledo City Council represents you at the local governmental level. The council consists of a body of 12 elected officials. These officials make up the legislative branch of the Toledo Government. These elected city officials are chosen at large or from various districts of the city to represent you. The council consists of six persons elected at large and six persons elected by individual districts. After the elections they organize to select a president as the leader who conducts council meetings.

The council has twelve standing committees. Members also serve on various committees, such as community and neighborhoods, budget and finance and youth, parks and recreation. The committees may meet monthly or as the chair person calls for a meeting. In addition, members of council sit on community boards, interact and collaborate with organizations, businesses, groups and individuals. The public may attend these committee meetings which can be informative on future actions to be taken by council.

The meetings of city council are opened to the public. Toledo City council meets on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. in council chambers at the government center on Jackson Street. They discuss issues, review and pass needed ordinances and resolutions on their agenda. They also vote on zoning and budget requests. By attending council sessions citizens can observe the workings of council, support or oppose issues on the agenda.

Residents can be informed of changes in the city that impact upon them and their neighborhoods. Open sessions present opportunities to gain insight into the operation of the city as well as to be actively involved in city government. You may call your city council member from your district as well as at large members to make comments and register concerns.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we start a new year of programs and activities, I encourage every member to expand their horizons and become involved with one of our community programs. Currently there is still a need for members to join with Kim Penn for a reception for Public Officials; you can contact Kim at 419-242-3979 for more information or to be on her committee. Also, we need members to help with the planning of our Signature Event. Each year this event brings more and more exposure to our League and each is more successful than the one before.

Late last year we started planning for an Observer Corps. I would like to know how many of our members already attend meetings and would be willing to report their findings to us. Please reply with this information to me, Rosemary Alloy, Alloy@aol.com.

For the rest of us, please let me know what meeting you would like to observe as we will send a letter of introduction to that entity. We will provide you with a badge showing you are a League member.

I just think this is good information and want to share it with you, the following article appeared in the Leader's Update.

LWVUS Reception Honoring New Women Members of the House of Representatives.

On January 6, 75 guests gathered for a historic reception on Capitol Hill to honor the newly sworn-in class of 11 women joining the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The event was cosponsored by the LWVUS and Rachel's Network, a bipartisan organization that promotes women as impassioned leaders and agents of change dedicated to the stewardship of the earth. In attendance were Congresswomen from both parties, including Shelley Berkley (NV), Lois Capps (CA), Kathy Dahlkemper (PA), Susan Maloney (NY), Gwen Moore (WI), Chellie Pingree (ME), Jan Schakowsky (IL), Jean Schmidt (OH), Allyson Schwartz (PA) and Lynn Woolsey (CA), as well as prominent leaders from the nonprofit and advocacy communities.

This was an inspiring and exciting event to be a part of and it was energizing to hear so many elected officials praise the League and its work. Several of the members noted that they got their start in public service through the League of Women Voters.

This being said, hope to see all of you soon, as there are many great events and meetings being planned.

Come out and wish everyone a Happy New Year and get involved.

Thanks,

Rosemary Alloy, Co-President

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Dear Olive,

Have you ever been in conversation with lovely, interesting, intelligent people who just don't seem to see things your way? What does one do when faced with this type of situation? How on earth can people get along if they have to watch everything they say in fear of raising other peoples hackles?  
Suffering with halitosis from foot in mouth disease.

Oh Dear Sufferer,

I really think you confuse me with Miss Manners, that maven of politeness, published in our local Sunday newspaper. Like the aforementioned lady, I too believe in civility and polite behavior. So I imagine you start with that in mind. A thought occurs to me that what may be missing in your experience is discourse among informed people who agree to allow each other to express and hold different points of view.

There is a place where you can find this remarkably rare and special relationship. A place where people come together and make an extreme effort to be good listeners. They do not always agree and sometimes find themselves at extreme odds but usually can come back to the basic principles that motivate them as members of the League of Women Voters.

Yes my dear, there is a League that is meant for you. Where raising hackles is fun and satisfying and forgotten quickly when we adjourn over food and drink. The thing to remember is that no matter how intensely an opinion or belief is held, if one can think, can reason, there is hope for progress.

If you would like to see this in action you must make room on your schedule Jan. 26 and come to the league program planning meeting. It will start slowly and build and as the restaurant staff is trying to close we will still be discussing and we will still be friends. I can't think of anything more invigorating, except acting on these positions. Can you?

**Ask Olive**

Olive

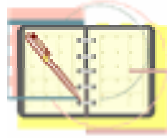
*Olive Colton is a founding mother of the Toledo League of Women Voters now known as the League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County.*

## **CITY COUNCIL CONTINUED**

Attending council meetings is another way to be an informed and active participant of the workings of city government. There is an opportunity to form relationships with others who also attend council meetings.

You may choose to work as an advocate with others who have similar concerns in the community. With a greater understanding of city council policies and how it operates you become able to impact and influence public policy. It is important to remember that council represents you.

# SAVE THE DATE!



## 2008-2009 Calendar

January 26, 5:00 p.m.	Board Meeting & Program Planning, Spaghetti Warehouse, 42 S. Superior
January 29	Naturalization Ceremony at Deveaux Middle School
February 4	Voter Deadline
February 13, 9:30 a.m.	Naturalization Ceremony at Clay High School
February 14	League Birthday
February 16	Presidents' Day
Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m.	General Meeting
March 5	Voter Deadline
March 8	International Women's Day
March 11,	Naturalization Ceremony at Central Elementary School
March 17	State House Day in Columbus
March 17-21	Sunshine Week
March 21, 10:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - location to be announced
<b>March 31</b>	<b>Reception for Public Officials honoring women elected officials</b>
April 3	Voter Deadline
April 6	Naturalization Ceremony at Findlay College
April 7	World Health Day
April 15	Tax Deadline
April 22	Earth Day
April 23, 6:00 p.m.	Signature Event
May 1-3	LWVO Convention, Crown Plaza, Dublin OH
May 7	Voter Deadline
<b>May 28, 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>
June 9	Voter Deadline
June 30, 4:00-9:00 p.m.	Joint Board Meeting

**All league meetings are open to all members. Please come and bring a guest.**

# Membership Trivia

## Do You? Don't You? Will You? How?

These are all part of the info that is gathered on our "Member Survey".

This short questionnaire lets us know how and to what extent you would like to be involved with League activities. It also identifies resources that could help our organization.

Many of you have completed the survey at the Orientation in the fall. If you have not done so, won't you consider taking a few minutes and complete it now.

I am not picky.... You are welcome to phone, email, or mail your responses.

Need more info? Feel free to give me a call at 419- 885-1257 ~ Darcy Yates membership chair.

League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County  
Membership Survey  
*Thanks so much for taking time to complete this.*

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to a new year with the League! For many of the League's programs and projects we need help in the ways listed below. Please check those that you would be willing to do.

\_\_\_\_ Driving/Delivering

\_\_\_\_ Writing/Editing/Proofreading

\_\_\_\_ Be a Greeter at meetings and events

\_\_\_\_ Work on Mailings

\_\_\_\_ Photography

\_\_\_\_ Observer Corps

\_\_\_\_ Public Speaking

\_\_\_\_ Telephoning

\_\_\_\_ Work on Newsletter – "The Voter"

\_\_\_\_ Work on Website

\_\_\_\_ Signature Event

\_\_\_\_ Voter's Guide Preparation

\_\_\_\_ Research

\_\_\_\_ Membership

\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising

\_\_\_\_ Work on "They Represent You" (Directory of Public Officials)

\_\_\_\_ Naturalization Committee

Would you like to receive *The Voter* by mail or email?

What is your email address?

Do you have an office or meeting space where the League could hold meetings?

Have you been a member of other Leagues? Where?

What League positions have you held?

\_\_\_\_ I am only interested in being a member in name only this year.

Good luck.



# **The Voter**

**January 2009**

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of Toledo-Lucas County**

PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606

Rosemary Alloy, Co-President

Peg Hull Smith, Co-President

Ann Fabiszak Payne, Editor

## **THANK YOU!!!**

Darcy Yates again contributed her election day poll worker salary of \$150 to the operating fund. Yeah! Darcy.

Joan and Bill Searles were not able to join us for the LWVTLC holiday dinner but sent their reservation check as a donation to the education fund. Way to go Searles!

Thank you, Karen Krause for your contribution to the operating fund.

*The League of Women Voters of  
Toledo-Lucas County  
is a member of  
Northwest Ohio Community Shares*

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