



THE VOTER

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

Signature Event Focuses on the Environment

The **Second Annual Signature Event** is **May 10** in the Ward Pavilion at Wildwood Metropark. It will be a buffet dinner preceded by a social hour beginning at 5:30 p.m. At this event, we spotlight an aspect of League's advocacy agenda. This year we're focusing on the environment and will be honoring individuals and organizations in our community who have had a **positive impact through environmental advocacy, public education or protection programs.**

There are ten recipients, three of whom are League members. They are **Linda Penn** and **Sr. Rosine Sobczak** for establishing the Lourdes College Life Lab; The Lake Erie Center, Director, **Dr. Carol Stepien**, for its ongoing environmental research and education programs; **Tom Henry**, of *The Blade*, for his dedicated reporting over the years on environmental topics; the **Maumee RAP** (remedial action plan) and its coordinator **Cherie Blair** for their work bringing together in coalition disparate groups for the purpose of restoring our streams; League members: **Louise Bankey** for her dedicated and long-standing commitment to environmental protection, **Sandy Bihn** for her almost one-woman crusade to save Maumee Bay, and **Gloria Green** for her wholehearted dedication and efforts to educate and make activists of us all on the prevention of environmental hazards; the **Department of Public Utilities for the City of Toledo** for the Toledo Waterways Initiative.

We are honored to have **Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson** as our keynote speaker. Dr. Thompson has generously donated his time to share his research with us through his topic, **Abrupt**



Climate Change: Past, Present and Future. He is an internationally respected and well honored geoclimatologist and glaciologist and distinguished university professor at OSU. Dr. Thompson's research has resulted in a better understanding of the history of the earth's climate change and significant contributions to the science of climatology. For a layman's view of what Dr. Thompson's 30-year research career has required and a fascinating history of the science of climatology, check out the book **Thin Ice: Unlocking the Secrets of Climate in the World's Highest Mountains** by Mark Bowen.

This should prove to be great evening and we hope all Leaguers will come and bring along someone else to hear our esteemed speaker and join in honoring our awardees. A place may be reserved by using the invitation/registration form received in the mail. The cost of dinner is \$40.00 for the general public and \$20.00 for League members. For more information, contact the League number 419-475-4371 or Yvette Thompson, Signature Event Committee chairperson at 419-215-9367.

Oberlin LWV Environmental Day



LWV Oberlin is inviting LWVTLC members and others to participate in their **Environmental Day** on **May 5**, starting at **10:00 a.m.** with tours of the **Oberlin College Adam J. Lewis Center for Environmental Studies**, followed by a presentation in the Center's auditorium by **David Orr**. Dr. Orr is the Environmental Studies Program Director and a well-known speaker and author of several books on environmental issues. After a noon luncheon at Kendal of Oberlin, **Ms. Evelyn Bryant** of the **George Jones Farm and Nature Preserve** will explain the work being done there. Tours of the farm will be possible after the luncheon. Cost is \$10 for lunch, reservations to be made through Joanne Norenburg, 116 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074. For more information contact her at 440-774-1935 or e-mail jnorenberg@juno.com.

Annual Meeting May 24, 2007
What a year to remember!



LWV-TLC's Annual Meeting will be held this year at the **Holland Branch** of the Lucas County Public Library (1032 S. McCord Road, Toledo) at **6:00 p.m.**

You will be hearing reports on all of the activities and accomplishments of this past year. This is always an ideal opportunity to bring potential members.

The evening will begin with coffee and dessert from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 6:30 p.m. Guests will have special nametags, so be sure to welcome them by introducing yourself.

Cost of attendance: **FREE**
What to bring: at least one guest

Dues opportunity: Annual Dues for 2007-2008 of \$50 (Individual), \$75 (Household) or \$25 (Student) can be given to the Treasurer at this meeting.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 24, 6:00 p.m.

Any questions, call Darcy Yates (419) 885-1257.

Nominating Committee Report

Slate of Officers
Term: 2007-2009

Co-President: Peg Hull Smith
First Vice President: Ann Payne
Second Vice President: Yvette Thompson
Secretary: Mary Karazim



Note: Co-President, Bonnie Bishop, Membership Chair, Meg Murphy and Treasurer, Sue Nichols, terms will end in 2008.

Board of Directors

Rosemary Alloy (2007-2009)
Phyllis Barnes (2007-2008)
Rebecca Daniels (2007-2009)
Stephanie Kaiser (2007-2008)
Diane Mieczkowski (2007-2009)
Kim Penn (2007-2008)

Note: Director Sharon Friedman will remain on the board. Her term ends in 2008.

Nominating Committee

Term: 2008 Co-Chairs: Alice and Rich Edwards
One additional member to be elected
(Note: Two board members will be appointed to the committee.)

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Daniels, Chair
Ellen Haigh
Uta Schaub
Bonnie Bishop, Board Member
Sue Nichols, Board Member
2007 Nominating Committee

Program for Advocacy

2006-2007

League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County
Approved at the Annual Meeting May 25, 2006

Election Reform

Support election reform that guarantees no citizen is disenfranchised.

Support reforms to ensure that the Board of Elections exhibits responsible management of elections, including adequate and continuous training of poll workers, fair and equitable distribution of the population among polling places and precincts and voting machines within precincts, as well as thorough and accurate counting of votes.

Community Studies

Study the structure and functions of governmental units in Lucas County.

Local Government Funding

Support adequate, fair and equitable funding for local government programs and services.

The Environment

Support organizational, financial and technical methods of preventing environmental pollution.

Support cooperation and coordination among governmental agencies and the private sectors involved with water management, air quality, toxic waste issues and land use that include the principles of smart growth and citizen participation in land development decisions plus other services not pertaining directly to the environment, such as economic development.

Encourage personal responsibility toward environmental conservation.

Education

Support the best utilization of human and physical resources to provide a high quality system of publicly supported educational institutions in the county.

Support efforts to ensure that all schools are accessible, responsive and accountable for student performance; that they exhibit responsible management; that they are accountable to citizens through locally elected officers and they comply with the same laws, rules, standards and policies.

	2006-2007 Revised Budget	2007-2008 Budget Proposal	Comments
OPERATING INCOME			
Dues	2,500.00	2,225.00	See footnote below
Member Contributions	120.00	150.00	
Non-member Contributions	200.00	100.00	
Fund Raisers	0.00	100.00	
Signature Event	1,300.00	1,236.25	
Interest	511.21	520.00	
Total Operating Income	4,631.21	4,331.25	
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Gen. Supplies/Copies	400.00	120.00	60%
Postage--Board/Officers	125.00	75.00	60%
PO Box Rental	80.00	48.00	60%
Telephone	300.00	195.00	60%
E-mail/Internet		60.00	Was included in public relations last year
Fund Raising	829.61	100.00	
Signature Event		730.00	
Membership	100.00	72.70	
Public Relations	150.00	100.00	
National Convention	0.00	500.00	
State Convention/Confer.	400.00	200.00	
Meetings/Receptions	150.00	125.00	
Dues to LWVUS	817.75	734.25	50% from Ed Fund
Dues to LWV Ohio	628.85	596.30	25% from Ed Fund
Voter	550.00	600.00	
Publications	50.00	50.00	
Program	50.00	25.00	
Total Operating Expenses	4,631.21	4,331.25	
EDUCATION FUND INCOME			
Member Contribution	300.00	200.00	
Non-member Contributions	1,537.00	520.00	We've lost TRY contribution from 5th 3rd
Community Shares	2,908.00	2,200.00	
Fund Raising		500.00	
Total Ed Fund Income	4,745.00	3,420.00	
EDUCATION FUND EXPENSES			
TRY/New Citizens' Guide	2,318.00	1,400.00	
Voter Education	1,000.00	500.00	
Community Shares dues	400.00	200.00	
Fund Raising		200.00	
Dues to National	817.00	536.30	
Dues to State	210.00	304.70	
40% of basic operating expenses		279.00	phone; mail box; postage; supplies
Total Ed Fund Expenses	4,745.00	3,420.00	

Note: For each \$50 in dues, we pay a total of \$48.70 to state and national. We keep only \$1.30

Note From the Budget Committee

The proposed budget is tight this year, particularly that of the Education Fund. As noted, Fifth Third Bank is no longer contributing to the printing of the TRY. However, a committee is working to find another business or organization to sponsor the TRY. If that effort succeeds, we'll amend the budget.

What's new this year is that we're suggesting that 40 percent of basic operating expenses, i.e., telephone, supplies, postage and postal box rental, be paid from the Ed Fund account since so much of those expenses are for Ed Fund activities.

If you're wondering why some of the amounts seem a little strange, it's because line items were adjusted to make the income and expenses totals equal.

Presidents' Letter

♦ *Bonnie Bishop and Peg Hull Smith*



As we approach our upcoming Signature Event highlighting the environment, Bonnie and I have been spending more and more time thinking and reading about the environment. We thought we would pass along some tips that might be useful. The notion, course, is for each of us to begin to live a greener life by just making a small change in some aspect of our life.

1. Since most food travels 1,200 miles or more from pasture to your dinner table, buy locally grown food and save fuel, and help the farmers in your own area.
2. Use natural cleaners like lemon juice and borax as alternatives to regular chemical-based products. Go to www.eartheasy.com for basic instructions.
3. Make sure your tires are properly inflated, and tell your neighbors to make sure their tires are properly inflated too. Doing this could save Americans more than 4 million gallons of gas each day.
4. Calculate your household's greenhouse gas emissions by going to www.epa.gov/climate.
5. Make sure your household faucets don't leak. A faucet that leaks 60 drops per minute can add up to 192 gallons per month. Go to www.h2ouse.org to find out how to leak-proof your home.
6. Take the Green Ribbon Pledge by going to www.greenribbonpledge.com. Pledge to turn

off lights in unoccupied rooms and turn off appliances and computers when not in use.

7. Replace incandescent light bulbs as they burn out with compact fluorescent bulbs. If every household in America switched out only one compact bulb, it would reduce energy consumption as much as taking a million cars off the road. See if your city/township/county has a program in place to replace stoplights with incandescent bulbs to LEDs that use 80% less energy than standard bulbs (and last 6-10 times longer). Arlington, Texas plans to save \$250,000 a year after their initial cost for the new bulbs is paid off.
8. Wash only full loads in dish- and clothes-washers.
9. Start drinking tap water instead of bottled water. Production of the bottles alone consumes over 1.5 million barrels of oil a year.
10. Carry your own mesh shopping bags. San Francisco recently banned nonbiodegradable plastic bags, which were costing the city \$8 million a year to clear from streets, storm drains and recycling machines.

Some of the tips came from [Newsweek](#), 4/16/07

~ Bonnie and Peg

Prevention First Act

by Bonnie Bishop

The League of Women Voters of Ohio, the ACLU, AAUW, Planned Parenthood, National Council of Jewish Women, Business and Professional Women/OH and others sponsored the **Prevention First** Lobby Day on April 17, 2007, in Columbus. Nearly 200 activists from around the state of Ohio gathered at the Statehouse for a Rally to advocate for increased access to family planning services and comprehensive sex education for all Ohioans. I and about eight other activists from Northwest Ohio attended this important event to lobby our State Senators and State Representatives to support the Prevention First Act.

The **Ohio Prevention First Act** will forbid a health insurance company from limiting or excluding coverage for prescription contraception if the policy covers other prescription drugs or devices. It will ensure Ohio's state-funded sex education programs provide young people with information to make safe, informed and responsible choices. It will require sex education classes to provide students with medically accurate information. It will launch a teen pregnancy prevention grant program to expand programs geared toward at-risk youth. The Act will earmark the existing \$1.7 million in state funds each year for women's health programs that include contraceptive services, will ensure access to emergency contraception for sexual assault survivors in all hospital emergency rooms, and require pharmacies to fill all legal scripts and dispense all over-the-counter medication.

Why Prevention First? In the United States, about half of all pregnancies are unintended. Ohio ranks 44th among all states and the District of Columbia in public funding of contraceptive services and Ohio has the 28th highest teen pregnancy rate in the United States. Prevention First is fiscally and socially responsible. It is about fair and accessible health care and education.

The **Freedom of Choice Ohio** coalition works for the fundamental right of reproductive choice for all women. LWVOH states "Since its founding in 1920, the League of Women Voters has opposed threats to basic constitutional rights and fought to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. At every level we work on issues dealing with the right of privacy in reproductive choices, domestic and international family planning, access to contraceptive medications and reproductive health care. We are concerned about decreasing teen pregnancy and we have pressed for inclusion of reproductive services in health care reform initiatives. We oppose proposals to inappropriately interfere with decisions that should be left to a woman and her doctor. The Ohio Prevention First Act is a vital effort to place emphasis on reproductive health care and choice initiatives that the majority of Ohioans can support."

Contact your legislators and ask them to co-sponsor and/or support this important legislation.



Thank You to . . .

Joan Searles, Mary Karazim, and Sharon Friedman for contributions to the operating fund and **Bonnie Smith** for a generous contribution to the education fund as memorials to **Eleanor Young**, Sue Nichols' mother.

Mary Karazim for her contribution to the LWVTLC in memory of **Ida Barnes**, Phylliss Barnes' mother.

Darcy Yates who contributed her pay for poll worker training to the operating fund.

Diane Mieczkowski wishes to thank **Uta Schaub** and **Ann Fabiszak Payne** for their help at recent Naturalization Ceremonies.

Leaguers Learn Much at this Year's Statehouse Day

Five LWVTLC Leaguers traveled to Columbus March 29 to attend Statehouse Day, arriving just



in time to hear the keynote speech by **John Corlett**, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Center for Community Solutions. His topic was **Protecting Ohio's Most**

Vulnerable: What's in the State Budget. He covered some highlights of the governor's budget which was in legislative committee hearings at that moment. The governor proposes to sell the tobacco settlement award. While the tobacco lawsuit is still in appeal the amount of potential settlement money goes up and down, selling the rights to the settlement would give the state a specific amount of money right now, perhaps as high as the current status of the settlement, and avoid the chance of getting a lesser settlement after a longer period of time. Regardless of the outcome of this provision, the speaker made the point that it was always questionable to fund ongoing needs with one time money.

Regarding the state general revenue dollars, which is local money, not from federal of other income sources, 49 cents of every dollar goes to education and 29.5 cents to health.

This budget provides for long-term care dollars to follow the person. It funds **Passport**, a program providing help to the elderly that helps to keep them living independently, at a level to meet the demand, and eliminates the waiting list.

There is a major investment in **early childhood education**, expanding the number of child care providers and pre-school programs, creating a uniform eligibility rate at 200% poverty, establishing quality ratings for programs connected to criteria, a career ladder for child care workers to create a more educated workforce in this field, and it provides for behavioral health screening. Mr. Corlett said they'd like to see more money for early childhood mental health treatment. The budget also includes provisions for support of after-school

programs, increases in adoption assistance, and child welfare and provides money to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The budget maintains the funding for the **Housing Trust Fund** instead of taking the proceeds from the Trust Fund fees and plowing them back into the fund.

The budget creates a **Medicaid buy-in program**, **restores dental services**, and provides a modest increase in **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** (TANF) funds (2/3 of those on TANF are children), providing utility assistance. Two and half million dollars is allotted to fund a 211 phone system for non-emergency calls, which operates like a 911 system but is for the information/referral calls that 911 should not receive. Some Homeland Security funds were to be used for this project.

The budget raises Medicaid eligibility for parents to 100% of poverty. Parents above the 200% poverty level can buy into the system. Ohio Health Care Exchange creates a benefit plan for persons up to 150% of poverty which would provide part of the premiums of private insurance. Overall Mr. Corlett says this budget provides some hope for people in poverty without children and working poor. The legislature now has its job to do.



Photo: www.ohiostatehouse.org

After the keynote talk, there were workshops about different advocacy areas. To see the lobbyists' statements and information about these topics posted on the web go to www.lwvtoledo.org for the link. On the horizon is the **proposed constitutional amendment** for school funding sponsored by the group, **Getting It Right for Ohio's Future**. This group is a consortium of groups affiliated in some way with education. More on this issue in future *Voters*. In the meantime check the website.



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**The League of Women Voters of
Toledo-Lucas County**

PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606

Bonnie Bishop, Co-President
Peg Hull Smith, Co-President
Ann F. Payne, Editor

Save the Date!



- May 4 & 5: State Convention,
Sheraton Suites, Cuyahoga Falls
- May 10: Second Annual Signature Event
Speaker: Dr. Lonnie G. Thompson
- May 14: Board Meeting
- May 24: General Meeting/ Annual Meeting
- June 11: Joint Board Meeting

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



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.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY**

PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606

Visit The League at:
www.lwvtoledo.org