



# THE VOTER

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

November/December 2007

## Juvenile Justice Public Forum – November 29

**Yvette Thompson-Gordon**, LWVTLC 2nd Vice President and resident whirlwind, has put together a valuable and eye-opening evening for anyone interested in the problem of teen violence. With the help of **Crystal Harris**, Director of the Youth Career Development Project of the Wayman Palmer YMCA/JCC, and the financial support of the **A. Phillip Randolph Institute** and the **CBTU** (Coalition of Black Trade Unionists), the LWVTLC is cosponsoring “**Teens & Violence: It’s a community problem, so what’s the solution?**” at the brand new Robinson Jr. H.S., 1007 Grand Ave., Toledo, on November 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The forum will feature a panel of experts in the Juvenile Justice field, local and regional lawmakers and academics, moderated by **Jay Holiday**, well know R&B artist. Among the participants are state **Sen. Teresa Fedor**, state **Rep. Edna Brown**, **Judge Denise Cubbon**, police **Det. Harold Mosely**, **Attorney Rebecca West Estell** and **Kent State University Professor Tina Kandakai**. Prof. Kandakai is a graduate of the University of Toledo and member of the faculty of the College of Education at KSU. She has published numerous papers on the topic of violence and young people based on her research.

The League hopes this will be a valuable program about issues affecting the youth of our area and will promote some positive dialogue and solutions in the ongoing effort to keep youth on the track to fulfilling and satisfying lives.

### Special Thanks for Special Contribution

The LWVTLC wishes to thank **John Yates**, husband of member Darcy Yates, for his generous monthly contributions. He is making a direct contribution to the League through payroll deductions and we are most appreciative.

## Leagues across Country Study Immigration Policy

The 2006 LWVUS Convention adopted a **three-year study of immigration policy**, the first national study by League since the 1992 health care study that added support for universal health care to the national program. At all levels of League, the purpose of a study is to educate members so they can be informed participants in consensus and provide necessary data for formulating the ultimate position League will adopt. The process is always a grassroots process, regardless of which level of League initiates the study.

The Immigration Study Committee has **defined the scope** of the current study which includes:

- Underlying values and principles regarding immigration;
- Reasons for migration from other countries, including but not limited to: effects of global interdependence on migration, motivation of refugees and asylees, motivation of other immigrants;
- Current federal immigration policy, including but not limited to: overview, effectiveness in uniting families, effectiveness in meeting needs of businesses, effectiveness in enforcement;
- Impact of immigration, including but not limited to: economic effects of authorized and unauthorized immigration, diversity, inclusion of immigrants in American society.

The committee has also provided a resource list and background papers on each of the items mentioned above at [lwv.org](http://lwv.org), highlight projects and click on immigration study. Summaries of the background papers and an introductory article appeared in the June and October National Voters, but are also available on the web. (The summary papers are inserts in today’s Voter.)

Take a look at this information to learn more about the problems and policies surrounding legal and illegal immigration. Get ready to join us on **January 24 at 6:30 p.m.** for some serious conversation when the LWVTLC meets to discuss one of the major issues in the country today and helps decide what stand the League will take. Location and refreshments to be announced.

## Lake Erie Basin Committee — A Report from LWVBG

By Anne Graves, LWVBG (used with permission)

The League of Women Voters' Lake Erie Basin Committee met at the University of Toledo's Lake Erie Research Center on the shores of Lake Erie on Maumee Bay on October 17. The Perrysburg League hosted the event, and members, dedicated to the protection and restoration of Lake Erie and its watersheds, represented Leagues from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York.

The morning session began with an update on work on the **Petition on Concentrated Animal Operations 2007** presented by Perrysburg LWV member, Gloria Green. A petition to send to the officials who decided on permits for installing and operation of these farms was circulated for consideration by those attending. Discussion ensued on whether the petition was educational or might be advocacy. It was decided that it could be sent if the Lake Erie Basin Committee heading and members' names were deleted.

After lunch we heard about the programs offered at the **University of Toledo Lake Erie Research Center** for middle and high school students, and about the students from area colleges and universities who use the facility. Faculty members at Bowling Green State University and The University of Toledo administer the facility.

A graduate student from BGSU is conducting a study on phosphorus in Maumee Bay. The western end of Lake Erie is the shallowest, warmest and biologically richest in the Great Lakes. Silt brought into the Lake by the Maumee and Portage Rivers forms huge plumes that can be seen in aerial photographs. Dissolved phosphorus, which nourishes algal growth, is highest in Bay waters in years of heaviest rainfall.

A new alga, named **Lyagbya wolleii**, was discovered in Maumee Bay last year. It formed large mats in the shallow waters of the Bay, floated to the top, and covered large areas of the surface of the water. Waves brought the tangled masses of plants onto the shore and piled them into stinking mounds. It forms quite a contrast to the beautiful, white sand beaches. It inhabits the reservoirs and lakes in southern Georgia, and was probably brought to the Bay on hulls of boats. **Sandy Bihn**, Western Lake Erie Association's Waterkeeper, is afraid that it will take over the bay. She brought in a sample, which looked a lot like green insulation.

The committee renewed its goals:

- Preserve and restore Lake Erie and its tributaries through pollution control, abatement and prevention.
- Improve planning and management of water and related land resources.
- Achieve the objectives of the 1987 U.S.-Canada Water Quality Agreement.

---

## Ask Olive

Dear Olive,

*I'm worried, reading the newspaper and listening to the TV news, about all the violence that's going on all over the world, not only wars and global conflict but also in our cities and towns and homes, right here in our community. So much of it seems to be happening in school or in the streets and much of it by young people, kids really. Why? What is wrong? Why can't the world be like it was when I was growing up: a good place to be?*

*- Saddened and Sickened in the County*

You can send your questions to **Ask Olive** by mailing them to POB 2506, Toledo, OH 43606 or e-mailing them to [info@lwvtoledo.org](mailto: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.

Dear SSC,

*I can see that this is very troubling for you and I'm sorry too. One is tempted to say the times are so very different now than when we... (you, my dear, have many fewer years to look back to when you contemplate your childhood than do I) ...were young. In some very real ways I suppose they are, the times that is, but I would ask you to stop for a minute and realize that even when you were young and feeling in a safe and good place, as you remember it, that was not true for everyone. Every time has its instability and waste. A wasted, young, lost life is perhaps the saddest and most terrifying waste there is, whether it is through death, or prison and trouble with the law, or extreme unhappiness, and inability to find a place in the world. Though I have never had any myself I can assure you that children are our most valuable asset. Only a fool would write off the children of our community, throwing up our hands in frustration as though we should throw them away. NO! No, my dear. Buck up. For every problem there is a solution. Maybe it is not an easy solution...good ones rarely are. Certainly moaning about these things will not change them.*

*I have an excellent idea. You must come to Robinson Jr. High School on Thursday, November 29, at 6:00 p.m. The League and several partners all interested in the fate of our community's children are sponsoring an informational forum on this very topic. We hope that lots of people from the community will attend especially young people and their parents. Perhaps I'll see you there; we can sit together but remember sitting will not solve the problem.*

*- Olive*

## *President's Letter* - Bonnie Bishop, Co-President



I can't help but want to celebrate that another election season is over. The LWV Toledo-Lucas County sponsored or co-sponsored a total of **four candidate's forums!** One for the **District 5 Toledo City Council** candidates, one for the **Village of Whitehouse**, OH City Council candidates and the **Whitehouse** Mayoral race, one for the **Anthony Wayne Schools Board of Education** and one for the **Toledo Public Schools Board of Education**. We also provided speakers for three events before the election.

I want to thank **Stephanie Kaiser, Phyllis Barnes, Kathy Chamberlain, Mary Karazim, Terry Mills, Ann Fabiszak Payne, and Darcy Yates** for assisting with the forums. The League would not have been able to provide these valuable Voter Education events without their help.

I also want to thank new member **Ashley Stevens** for helping with the TPS forum. It was especially exciting to have a young person to mentor. The TPS forum was great, with the **students of DeVeaux** participating in the event. Voter Education is what we are about and we received wonderful comments and compliments for our work on these events.

As I write this, those of us involved in the lawsuit filed in 2005 regarding a broken election system, are once again focusing on what the next steps may be since the election is over. We will continue to inform the LWV members to the extent that we are allowed. **Darcy Yates** has once again contributed her wages for working at the polls on Election Day. Thank you, Darcy, for being a helpful citizen and contributing member to the League. We do appreciate what you do! **Kathy Chamberlain** and I also worked on Election Day at the polls. I am happy to report that three of us provided this important community service.

Don't forget to attend the **November 29 event** on Juvenile Justice. The location has been changed to **Robinson Jr. High School**. The speakers have experiences with and knowledge of the topic and it's sure to be an informative meeting.

The **Holiday Luncheon** meeting with Perrysburg will be at the **Carranor Hunt and Polo Club**, 502 E. 2nd Street, Perrysburg on December 4, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. The price is \$15 and reservations can be made by calling Stephanie Johnstone at 419-351-5076. Call Peg Smith at 419-841-6988 if you want to carpool. League lobbyists will speak on Election law and League Advocacy. Hope to see some of you there.

We also want to invite you to attend a special **Naturalization Ceremony** on **December 14** at McMaster Center at the Main Library. The League will hold a reception for the new citizens and LWV members. Thank you, **Diane Mieczkowski**, for assisting in this and all the monthly ceremonies for new citizens.

Co-President Peg Smith has been on an extended vacation and has now returned home. **Welcome back and hope it was great!**

---

## **Save the Date!**

### **November 29, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

Juvenile Justice Forum, "Teens & Violence: It's a community problem, so what's the solution?" Robinson Jr. H.S. 1007 Grand Ave. Toledo.

### **December 4, 11:30 a.m. - Tri-League Luncheon**

Hosted by Perrysburg LWV at the Carranor Club.

Reservations should be made to Stephanie Johnstone (419) 351-5076 or 419-872-2979, e-mail: skjr@buckeye-express.com. Mail checks for \$15 per person to Stephanie at 13006 Eckel Junction Rd., Perrysburg, OH 43551.

### **December 10, 6:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting, Bonnie Bishop's home, 2676 Algonquin Dr.

### **December 14, 11:00 a.m.**

Naturalization ceremony and Reception for new citizens McMaster Center Main Library downtown

**January 11** - Holiday Party with political meeting and greeting

**January 24, 6:30 p.m.** - Short business meeting followed by Immigration Study Consensus.

**February 11** - Board meeting with LWVUS Program Planning

**February 21** - General Meeting

**March 10** - Board meeting

**March 20** - General Meeting

**April 14** - Board meeting

**April 24** - Signature Event

**May 12** - Board Meeting

**May 22** - Annual Meeting

**June 13-17** - National Convention, Portland OR

**June 19** - Joint Board Meeting

## Whitehouse Forum Response

After the Whitehouse Forums we found that a substantial number of questions never made it to the podium for lack of time. Not wanting to let them go unanswered we offered the participants an opportunity to answer them for posting on our website. Not every candidate took us up on that offer which admittedly was very close to Election Day, since both of those forums were held the last week in October. One who did, wrote back to express her appreciation.

*Dear Bonnie,*

*Thank you for giving me the opportunity to answer the unasked questions from the Whitehouse, OH Candidates Night. I tried my best to limit the length of my answers, I was not always successful. The questions and answers are attached.*

*I also want to thank you and the ladies that worked so hard to conduct a very professional evening. I know I didn't express this on the evening in question but our time was so limited I wanted to devote all I was given to making my views known. It is through dedication, such as your organization displays, that allows people to make more informed decisions.*

*Sincerely,  
Michelle K. Tippie*

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY  
PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606**



## *The Voter*

**November/December 2007**

The Voter is published nine times a year by

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 Fabiszak Payne, Editor

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

