

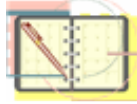


THE VOTER

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

September 2007

Save the Date!



- September 6 Board Meeting Reynolds Corners Library
- September 20 League Kick Off Meeting
VIP Room UT Scott Park Campus,
Parkside Blvd between Hill and
Nebraska Avenues, 6:30 pm
- October 8 Board Meeting West Toledo Library
- October 14 TPS Board and Council District #5
Forum with Westgate Neighbors
Association at American Korean
Presbyterian Church 3225 Markway
at Secor across from Westgate
Shopping Center.
- October 17 Lake Erie Basin Committee
UT Lake Erie Center
6200 Bayshore Road, Oregon
10:00 am-3:00 pm
- October 18 General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Sanger Library topic: COSI Levy
- November 19 Board Meeting
Reynolds Corners Library
- November 15 General Meeting Eldercare
- December 4 Tri-League Luncheon hosted by
Perrysburg LWV at Carranor Club
- December 10 Board Meeting
Reynolds Corners Library
- December 14 Naturalization Ceremony
hosted by LWVTLC
- January 11 Holiday Party with political meeting
and greeting
- January 24 General Meeting preceded by
Board Meeting
- February 11 Board Meeting
- February 21 LWVUS Program Planning Meeting
- March 17 Board Meeting
- March 27 General Meeting
Know Your Ohio Government
- April 14 Board Meeting
- April 24 Signature Event
- May 12 Board Meeting
- May 22 Annual Meeting
- June 13 -17 LWVUS Convention, Portland, OR
- June 19 Joint Board Meeting

LWVTLC Kickoff Meeting September 20

On Thursday, **September 20** at **6:30 pm** in the **VIP Room** at the University of Toledo Scott Park Campus the League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas County will hold its first meeting of the year. This meeting will focus on what League is all about and how we are planning to meet our local goals. Come and find out what is in store for the rest of the year. The League activities range from political forums to informational sessions for members and the public on a variety of issues and topics, as well as projects to help promote civic participation in and responsibility for self governance. The **League is about making democracy work** one individual at a time. Come learn the history of the League locally and our plans for the upcoming year and beyond. Join us in contributing your time to making the community and ourselves more vital, involved and active citizens.



Lake Erie Basin Committee to Meet in Northwest Ohio

The Lake Erie Basin Committee of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. is made up of **Great Lakes State Leagues** and is concerned with the **preservation and protection** of the Great Lakes. Over the years the Committee has taken positions through member League consensus on environmental threats to this fresh water supply in the region. (See LWVTLC February 2007 Voter.) Locally, Perrysburg League member, **Gloria Green**, has been attending LEBC meetings and has been instrumental in arranging the next meeting, **October 17**, of the LEBC to be held at the **Lake Erie Center of the University of Toledo** on the Bayshore Road. This event will provide an easy opportunity for NW Ohio League members to learn more about the committee, the lake and current issues surrounding the water supply as well as learning more about the Lake Erie Center, right on our doorstep.

Further details about the meeting will be provided on the League web site and through the phone tree and or newsletter as they become available.

Spotlight on Leaguers: Scott, Penn and Krause

No one can ever say League of Women Voters members lack ambition and motivation. Two of our members were featured in newspaper articles in a matter of days.

New member **Dr. Renay Scott** plans a 300-mile bicycle ride to honor her seven close relatives that battled cancer. The ride, to be completed in four days will be during the American Cancer Society's Pan Ohio Hope Ride. Each cyclist in the Hope Ride, pledges to raise \$2,650. She has been very successful in raising part of the pledge and is likely to meet the entire pledge.

Participation in this important fundraiser will fulfill two of Ms. Scott's passions, cycling and cancer awareness. Dean of Owens Community College's school of arts and sciences, she said the whole campus is truly behind her and her efforts to raise cancer awareness. She trained by cycling 65 miles in 3 hours and 45 minutes and with shorter rides as well. *The Blade* published the article on Dean Scott.

Another League member of just one year, **Kim Penn**, recently earned her Master's degree from Lourdes College and her Master's thesis is gaining attention. Ms. Penn's work entitled "A Narrative Study of Five Women of Color - Building the Foundation to Success and Ethnic Self-Esteem, Ages 65 to 80" is being considered for a documentary to be produced by the local public television station, WGTE.

Ms. Penn conducted lengthy interviews to trace the lives of five African American women from modest means who became successful in their chosen fields. All five women have agreed to participate in the documentary if WGTE can obtain underwriting funding. Ms. Penn believes the documentary might help bring about change in the self-esteem in today's girls, particularly those ages 9 to 16. The story on Ms. Penn's thesis appeared in *The Toledo Journal*, the August 1 through August 7 issue.

We also want to highlight the exceptional efforts of member **Karen Krause**, who works tirelessly with the group known as Jobs With Justice. Karen has demonstrated her commitment to universal health care over many years. As a retired public health nurse she is very aware of the needs of the uninsured and under insured. Karen's other consuming commitment is education. She is an elected member of the Lucas County Board of Education.

We are proud of the endeavors of these exceptional women. Ms. Scott, Penn and Krause are all striving to fulfill League advocacy efforts. The League supports policies and programs to prevent or reduce poverty, to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families. We advocate affordable and accessible health care for all, and a strong workforce development system that provides training, support services and jobs leading to self-sufficiency

Consider Being a Poll Worker

Recruiting poll workers has been one of The League of Women Voters' many efforts toward election reform and this election season it will be again. There has been much confusion regarding what the requirements are to become a poll worker. I heard rumors about change the Board of Elections was implementing that would only allow a voter who had declared a major party to work at the polls. I spoke to the Secretary of State's office and the Voting Rights Institute and received confusing responses to my questions about letting independent or undeclared voters work the polls. The article on the Lucas County shortage of poll workers in the July 31 edition of *The Blade* was unclear on the eligibility of voters to work the polls who are not members of major political parties. However, I have received confirmation that indeed, one can work at the polls in Lucas County without a voting history that favors a particular party. As older, experienced poll workers, Darcy Yates and I urge you to consider being a poll worker...they are really needed! Tell your children and grandchildren that young adults at least 17 years old can now be poll workers.



Volunteering to work at the polls is a huge contribution to the community as the ranks of poll workers have been aging and diminishing over the years. It's an opportunity to be intimately involved in making democracy work. It can also be a financial contribution to the League. Many League members who work the polls have routinely contributed their wages for the day to the League's operating or education funds which then helps to ensure that we continue to pursue our missions of non partisan political education and the promotion of democracy.

- Bonnie Bishop

Want to be more involved? Volunteer for one of these activities!

- Volunteer to monitor **Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority Elections**. Duty to be available at LMHA polling location to accept ballots and monitor voting for residents' board of governance. May work two to four or six hours. If interested, call League line 419-474-5030.
- Leaguers interested in diminishing cynicism, promoting participation and making a difference in how the public especially young children view the democratic process. Contact the Voter Services Committee and help **plan mock elections** for 2008.
- Individuals committed to protecting and securing an unimpaired franchise. Must be early risers or at least able to awaken quickly. Clear-sighted, not cowed by electronic equipment or custom. Not afraid to ask why. Not afraid to speak up. Honest as the day is long. To be **Poll workers** contact Board of Elections at 419-213-4001. Need more information about what it's like, check with Bonnie or Darcy.

Voter Services Committee in Action



The Voter Services Committee met twice and is planning events for this fall. Under the very effective guidance of **Stephanie Kaiser**, chair, the committee is involved in a number of Voter Education projects and has already started planning for the fall of 2008.

The committee welcomes new member **Olivia Holden**. She is already committed to being a great contributor to the group. Other members are **Sharon Friedman, Diane Mieczkowski** and **Phyllis Barnes**. Peg and I are grateful they joined the committee so more can be accomplished to make democracy work.

Please contact the League phone line at 419-474-5030 or Stephanie if you would like to be involved. Better yet, come to the next Voter Services Committee meeting September 18. **Voter Education is what the League does.**

- Bonnie Bishop

How Consensus Works

Webster defines consensus as "agreement on matters of opinion." For the League of Women Voters, however, consensus has a far broader meaning. In League parlance, it means agreement among a SUBSTANTIAL number of representative groups of members (not just a simple majority) reached after sustained study and group discussion. Consensus is a prerequisite to the League taking any action on any national, state or local issues. Consensus also determines what action if any, is to be taken on the item under consideration. No action is taken where there is a lack of agreement; and, although this may at times be a disappointment to some members, it is essential that when a League position is announced, it means that members are not only informed but are in basic agreement.

League members are expected to examine all sides of an issue. The sources of information must be weighed, various factors considered, and facts established before opinions are formed. Minority opinions should be listened to with open minds and be included in reports to the board. Every member is encouraged to participate. The discussion leader should seek to draw out opinions rather than to express them. When reaction to specific aspects of the item presented is indicated, specific questions may be asked of the membership and the answers reported to the board. The board should also be informed about the tenor of the meeting. For example, was there enthusiastic approval; much opposition, doubt and uncertainty; or hesitation to come to a conclusion?

Once the board, at the level of League conducting the study, evaluates the thinking of its members and finds sufficient areas of agreement, the League "has a position" on the item under consideration. A substantial and representative number of its members now approve or disapprove certain policies and may want to take action. The general membership is informed at League meetings and through League newsletters. The national League reports consensus on national issues, the state League on state issues and the local League on local issues.

Thank you Peggy Affolter for the generous gift in memory of Arlene Hendren, Helen Orcutt, Patricia Snyder and Vera Simon.

The League thanks Sharon Friedman, Robert Joseph and Doris Miller for their generous contributions to the operating fund.



The Voter

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PO Box 2506, Toledo, OH 43606

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

General Meeting October 14

The General Meeting at **Sanger Library** on October 14 will be an opportunity to examine the **proposed COSI levy** which will be on the November ballot. **Lauri Hauser** from COSI will discuss the work of the Center, its financial situation and provide a demonstration. There will be opportunity to discuss the proposed levy and whether LWVTLC should take a stand on this issue.

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

Visit The League at:
www.lwvtoledo.org

Women United: Our Vision and Voice in the 21st Century

Featuring a panel of representatives from:

- American Association of University Women
- League of Women Voters Toledo-Lucas County
- YWCA OF greater Toledo
- Maumee Valley Girl Scout Council
- The Toledo Club of the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.
- Toledo Women Alive! Coalition

Saturday, September 15, 2007

Epworth United Methodist Church
3077 Valley View (off Central), Ottawa Hills
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast Buffet
Networking

Questions? Call 419-874-8242

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





Democracy Needs . . . **YOU!**

**The League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas County
is calling on all who want to . . .**

- **Make Democracy Work**
- **Stay informed on local, state and national issues**
- **Join others to focus on election reform, environment, health care, education, regionalism, juvenile justice and local government funding**
- **Help educate and inform the public about the voting process and voting rights**
- **Be a League Representative**

**Learn about the League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas County
and how you can make a difference.**

Attend our 2007 League Kickoff Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 6:30 p.m.

**The VIP room of University of Toledo Scott Park Campus
on Parkside Blvd. between Hill and Nebraska
(Please park your car in Lot/Area 22)**

All are welcome!

The members of the **League of Women Voters** are a group of **women** and **men** who are committed, dynamic and effective citizens. Their hands-on work leads to civic improvement.

LWV of Toledo Lucas County is non-partisan and was founded in 1921.
Please join us. Annual dues are \$50.00.

For more information call 419-475-4371.

Remember . . .
Democracy is not a spectator sport!