



THE VOTER

The Quarterly Publication of the League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas County

founded 1921

www.lwvtoledo.org

Spring 2014

LWVTLC Annual Dinner Meeting May 22, Degage Jazz Cafe Langston Hall Banquet Room

The League's Annual Meeting will be held this year at the classy Degage Jazz Cafe complex. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 5pm and as usual deal with everything needed to prepare us for the work of next year. Members have already been sent the proposed 2015 budget, advocacy program, slate of officers and suggested changes in the bylaws. Our featured after dinner speaker will be Paula Hicks-Hudson, president of Toledo City Council, former director of the Lucas County Board of Elections.

Come and enjoy the camaraderie of a good meal in a great setting with fellow leaguers and friends. See attachment or insert for RSVP information.

LWVO Supports State Issue 1 Passage

At its March 2014 board meeting, the LWVO decided to support Issue One which will permit the State of Ohio to issue up to \$1.875 billion in revenue bonds to provide funds for capital improvements to cities and counties in Ohio. Improvements to roads and cleaner water are certainly priorities that the League can support.

The Board's support was based on LWVUS principles on government standards and policies, and the LWVO position on land use.

Issue 1 is a proposed state constitutional amendment to extend the infrastructure bond program by authorizing the issuance of additional general obligation bonds to fund public infrastructure capital improvements. It was proposed by a joint resolution of the General Assembly.

See our website www.lwvtoledo.org or page 6 of this Voter for pros and cons of Issue 1.

A note about the logo.

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of LWVUS the LWV logo included the note 90 yrs. That major milestone was reached in 2010. As we count up to the more significant 100-year mark we are recognizing on our logo not only the years that LWVUS has been in existence but also our own League, hence 94/93 years.

2014 Calendar of Events

May

6 LWVO conference call Human Trafficking Noon to 1pm., Toll free 866-740-1260 with prompt enter PIN 4691505#

6 Primary Election

22 LWVTLC Annual Meeting 5pm., Degage Cafe Langston Hall 301 River Rd. Maumee, OH

28 Lake Erie Basin Committee meeting in Toledo, Lake Erie Center 10am to 2pm., 6200 Bayshore Rd. Oregon, OH

31 League Fund raiser Garage Sale see pg. 3 for details.

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President's Letter

Dear Leaguers,

There are lots of things happening in League right now. One of the most important is the Voting Rights lawsuit that LWVO is part of along with the NAACP, ACLU and the Bethel AME Church. League's philosophy about voting rights has always been based on the ideal of inclusion and expansion. Making voting easier not harder, opening opportunities for citizens to exercise their right to vote not putting up barriers to that right.

The guest speaker at our upcoming Annual Dinner is Paula Hicks-Hudson who will talk to us about the recent changes in voting laws. Paula is currently the president of Toledo City Council but is a former Director of the Lucas County Board of Elections. She has both administrative and political experience in this realm. I hope that you will come to the Annual Meeting, not only to hear Paula's talk but to be part of the voting membership deciding our next year's budget, bylaws, advocacy program and officers and board of directors and to meet and get reacquainted with other league members in a lovely setting.

I want to take this time to thank all the leaguers who have given so much time and effort to all of our activities this year. I also want to remind everybody to use our website and like us on FaceBook. It is a great tool for information about issues and what's going on in League.

Some sad things also happened this year. Karen Krause and Bill Searles, two active, long standing members died. We will miss them and try to keep their spirits alive through our work.

Yvette

2013-14 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LWVO Files Lawsuit To Restore Early Voting

On May 1, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, together with the Ohio NAACP, Bethel AME Church, and ACLU of Ohio announced the filing of an important lawsuit to protect Ohioans' voting rights.

The lawsuit seeks to overturn recent actions by the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio Secretary of State to cut early voting days and hours. Evidence shows that early voting - specifically the early voting time periods that were cut - are heavily used by African American voters. The lawsuit alleges that these cuts to early voting days and hours violate the Voting Rights Act and the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution because they disproportionately harm minority voters. See page 4 for schedule of current hours and days for early voting.

For the last several years, LWVO has worked hard to protect early voting, testifying against legislation that sought to cut early voting, such as [House Bill 194 in 2011](#) and [Senate Bill 238 in 2013](#). Many members circulated petitions to put [HB 194 to a referendum](#) - and succeeded - leading the legislature to repeal HB 194 before it took effect. Unfortunately, many of the provisions of HB 194 have resurfaced in recent legislation and actions by the Secretary of State, notwithstanding LWVO efforts to find reasonable compromises that would preserve some evenings and weekends. Sadly, these requests to the Legislature and Secretary of State fell on deaf ears, which is why LWVO had to take the extraordinary measure of going to court.

To read the full complaint go to: http://www.acluohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/NAACP.V.Husted-Complaint2014_0501.pdf

Fundraising Opportunities for the League

Hugh Neighborhood Garage Sale May 31 Proceeds to Boost League Operating Fund

Donate your unused, just hanging around, never liked, don't know where it should go, need to really get it out of the house stuff to the garage sale. It will help relieve you of some clutter and add a few dollars to the League's every day funds. This year we're hoping to help send some members to national convention. This is the second year we're going to piggy back on the amazing five street garage sale in the Ellenridge-Brunswick-Marlaine-Lainar-Arnette neighborhood and we **need your help**. Just figure out what you can part with, price it and give Ann FabPayne a call (419-531-7460) anytime before May 31. She'll arrange for pick up.

Kroger Community Rewards Benefit LWVTLC/LWVO Education Fund

The Kroger Company has a neat program for helping 501c3 organizations earn money each time a member uses his or her Kroger Plus card. In order for the League's Ed Fund to benefit you have to sign up on the Kroger webpage www.krogercommunityrewards.com. You'll need to fill out the form with your name, Kroger Plus card number and the LWVO Ed. Fund number 80480, then every time you use your Kroger Plus card the Ed. Fund will receive a percentage of what you spend as it relates to the total spending of all the participating community organizations' members. You must renew your designation every year after May 1, so if you are already signed up please renew now so that LWVTLC can continue to benefit when you go Krogering.

2014 Changes to Ohio Election Law

Last updated March 4, 2014

Rule Changes in Effect for the May 6th Primary:

1. Early Voting Days & Hours: On January 15th, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted issued Directive 2014-01 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- ·8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 1 through April 4;
- ·8am to 9pm on Monday, April 7 (the deadline for voter registration);
- ·8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from April 8 through April 11;
- ·8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from April 14 through May 2; and
- ·8am to 12pm on Saturday, May 3.

Rule Changes in Effect for the November 4th General:

1. Golden Week Eliminated: SB 238, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February eliminated the so-called “golden week” overlap between the start of early voting and the close of registration. Both early in-person and mail-in absentee voting will begin one week later, the day after registration closes.

2. Early Voting Days & Hours: On February 25th, Secretary Husted issued Directive 2014-06 setting uniform early voting days and hours for all counties in Ohio. They are:

- ·8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 7 through October 10;
- ·8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 14 through October 17;
- ·8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 20 through October 24;
- ·8am to 4pm on Saturday, October 25;
- ·8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 27 through October 31;
- ·8am to 4pm on Saturday, November 1.

3. Absentee Ballot Applications: SB 205, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Kasich in February prohibits any government official other than the Secretary of State from sending unsolicited absentee ballot application forms. SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee application be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

4. Absentee Ballot Envelopes: SB 205 also requires that every field on the absentee ballot envelope be filled out completely or it will be rejected.

5. Provisional Ballot Affirmation Forms: SB 216, which was passed by the legislature and was signed by the governor likewise requires that every field on a provisional ballot affirmation form be filled out completely – including newly required information – or it will be rejected. One positive development is that, for voters who do not appear on the rolls, under SB 216 a provisional ballot affirmation form will be able to double as a voter registration form, so that provisional voters who upon review are not on the rolls will be registered.

Lake Erie Waterkeeper Conference Report^{*}

by Don Wonnell

The annual Lake Erie Conference sponsored by Lake Erie Waterkeeper <http://www.lakeeriewaterkeeper.org> was held on March 20 at Lourdes College. The day long event covered all forms of concern about Lake quality with multiple presentations by scientific, engineering and agricultural experts, also including State Senator Randy Gardner. *The following is a shortened summary of the complete report which is available on our website www.lwvtoledo.org

William Myers, president of Lucas County Farm Bureau, Waterkeeper Board member, former Oregon City council member and farmer of 2000 acres near the entrance to Maumee Bay State Park, offered environmental solutions for farmers. Mr. Myers, an early “no-till” farmer, said that 50% of all crop area in Ohio and 40% in the Maumee watershed is no till. He is experimenting putting gypsum on fields which reportedly reduces phosphorus and increases yield. famerbill21@aol.com

Janet Kauffman, who has worked with the Bean/Tiffin Watershed Coalition, showed pictures of pollution along southern Michigan tributaries including the River Raisin and Bear Creek. She lives near the former Vreba-Hoff Dairy, a much EPA fined Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, which she says emitted up to 114 gallons of liquid fertilizer, possibly much of it into local creeks. She also stated that liquid manure has excess phosphorus and nitrogen. According to Ms. Kauffman there are 248 CAFO's in Michigan and about 4000 in Ohio. jkauffman@emich.edu

Sen. Gardner spoke about some of the environmental groups that have been discussed in Waterkeeper meetings--agricultural nutrients working group, Clean Ohio Fund, and the Healthy Lake Erie Initiative. He said that there has recently been proposed a \$10 million fund for environmental purposes, \$1.5 million of which to find alternatives to open lake dumping. Dredging and acquiring wetlands for preservation are also aims. He mentioned Sen. Copara and Reps. Davilla and Redfern as being active in environmental issues in Ohio. He also stated that several weeks before this conference he had no idea of the magnitude of these environmental issues. gardner@ohiosenate.gov

The Army Corps of Engineers was represented by Tim Winewski who spoke about the Corps' dredging operations of channels at Toledo, Cleveland, Fairport Harbor, Ashtabula, Sandusky and Huron. He said Toledo's operation requires 75% of the dredging on Lake Erie due to shallow water and sediment from the Maumee River. 84% of the dredging is deposited in the open lake and 14% in near shore locations and that the Toledo Combined Disposal Facility can only take one more year of deposits. Michael.Asquith@usace.army.mil.

Patrick Nicholson, retired chairman/CEO of N-VIRO Soils and former Toledo Lucas County Port Authority president, was keynote speaker. He said animal manure has an impact on the environment over 500 times more than human solids, that animal manure is second only to pulp and paper sludge in organic waste and that the impact of antibiotics in animal feed on manure pathogens is huge. jpnicholson@bex.net

Emily Collins is supervising attorney at the University of Pittsburg Law School Environmental Law Clinic and founder of Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services providing service to modest income clients and private attorneys in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. She explained methods by which states avoid the Clean Water Act mandates for Total Maximum Daily Load studies aimed at decreasing pollution 60% by 2017 and 100% control by 2025. She warned that these delays may cause Lake Erie to be unable to sustain fish, and essentially become a dead lake. eac50@pitt.edu

Lake Erie provides drinking water for millions, over 100,000 jobs, over one billion dollars to the economy, 30% of Ohio tourism, and has more consumable fish than all the other Great Lakes and is obviously in trouble.

State Issue 1 Explanation, Pros/Cons

ISSUE 1: PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO EXTEND THE INFRASTRUCTURE BOND PROGRAM BY AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (Proposed by Joint Resolution of the General Assembly)

To amend Section 2s of Article VIII Constitution of the State of Ohio

A YES vote means approval of the amendment.

A NO vote means disapproval of the amendment.

A majority YES vote is required for the amendment to be adopted.

If approved, the proposed amendment will take effect immediately after the election.

League Explanation of Issue 1: In 1987, 1995, and 2005 voters approved the issuance of bonds to fund state aid to local public-works projects. The approval in 2005 permitted the state to finance \$1.35 billion of infrastructure capital improvements over a 10-year period. This constitutional amendment would permit the state to issue an additional \$1.875 billion of general revenue bonds for the next 10-year period.

This amendment would:

Assist in the financing of capital improvement projects of municipal corporations, counties, townships, or other governmental entities designated by law. The projects are limited to roads and bridges, waste water treatment systems, water supply systems, solid waste disposal facilities, and storm water and sanitary collection, storage, and treatment facilities, including real property, interests in real property, facilities, and equipment related or incidental to them.

Limit the bonding authority to no more than \$175 million in each of the first five years and no more than \$200 million in each of the next five years.

Proponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. This amendment would provide a much-needed influx of funding for the infrastructure needs of local governments, including repair of roads and bridges and water and wastewater facilities.
2. After issuance of the proposal bonds, Ohio will still be well below the state's 5.0% constitutional debt limitation.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue that:

1. In repaying the bonds, legislators lose flexibility in allocating funds for other state services that may be more urgent.
 2. The amount proposed is insufficient to meet the current infrastructure needs.
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Statehouse Day/Council April 9: A Good Time Was Had by All!

by Ann Fabiszak Payne and Nancy Hughes

The trip down and back to Columbus was uneventful, no flat tires or fender benders or speeding tickets, we didn't get lost. Considering how much talking we did on the way up and back the time just flew. It was a sunny, mild day in Columbus, a very big city by Toledo standards, lots of traffic and people all over the place. But the best part? Well, really there were several best parts. Nancy and I got to meet with Sen. Edna Brown. We were scheduled to take 15 minutes of her time, a reasonable amount to introduce ourselves and tell her a little about league issues. She engaged us in conversation for 45 minutes talking about voting issues, how to get people to vote, the league's influence or lack of it in some instances and urged us to promote league expertise and mission especially with young people looking for a balanced, thoughtful voice. The day's agenda was advocacy driven. There were sessions on the environment, focusing on the chemical spills into the Ohio River Watershed; women's reproductive health and the many steps backward from Roe vs. Wade; a historical perspective and the modern challenges to voting rights. There were two different presentations by judges that were especially interesting and inspiring.



Nancy Hughes and Col. Murnane

Calendar Continued

June

3 LWVO conference call Noon to 1pm., Toll free 866-740-1260 with prompt enter PIN 4691505#

6-10 LWWUS Convention Dallas, Texas

18 Joint/Change over Board Meeting

28 Community Shares fundraiser "Share Our Dreams" event. Harley Davidson Dealership

The *National Association of Women*

Judges Informed Voter Project is a response to ever increasing politicized judicial races. Ret. Air Force Colonel Linda Strite Murnane, who has a long judicial history including for the International Criminal Tribunal in the Hague, spoke to us about the importance of keeping courts fair and impartial and defending them from improper political interference and pressure from special interests. NAWI's Informed Voter Project is a perfect fit with LWVO's goal of educating voters about judicial races.

Judge Paul M. Herbert, of the Franklin County Municipal Court, spoke to us about a unique program that he developed called "CATCH" Court (Changing Actions to Change Habits). It is a process that helps victims of trafficking to break the cycle of abuse and move forward in their lives. His mission is to help law enforcement, the public and prostitutes themselves to realize that all prostitutes are trafficked, and victims of forced sexual slavery. It was a very moving presentation with multiple success stories that made us feel there is a need for similar courts throughout the state.

We picked up several detailed handouts that will be helpful for our local work, including reports from LWVO volunteer lobbyists on Land Use, Abolition of the Death Penalty, Redistricting, Fracking, Renewable Energy, Primary and Secondary Education, Reproductive Choice, Human Trafficking, the Housing Trust Fund, Election Law, and the Judiciary. All of these reports are available on the LWVO website through a link on our home page go to www.lwvtoledo.org. They are excellent resources to acquaint you with much of what LWVO is involved in.

We hope we've sparked your interest in attending next year's Statehouse Day. They are always enlightening and this one was particularly inspiring.

RENEW YOUR LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP NOW

Use the form enclosed with the Annual Dinner invitation

OR

Fill out the last page of this Voter and send it to the League's address

In Memoriam

This year, death has claimed two long time league members **Karen Krause** and **Bill Searles**. They were both committed to the ideals of the league, each working in his own way to further the League's mission.

Karen Krause

Karen died peacefully on Oct. 21 after battling cancer for some months. She was a life long fighter for social justice. She was a consummate activist; part of every parade, every demonstration, every petition drive, every effort to make life more just. Her lasting and perhaps most significant contribution to the cause of social justice was the establishment of the Toledo Area Jobs with Justice/Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition.

Karen Krause was a nurse whose belief that health care is a right was one to the things that brought her, over 20 years ago, to League because of our stand on universal health care. That belief led her to leadership in Northwest Ohio Universal Healthcare Action Network. She was an idealist but also politically savvy, active in the Democratic Party and running for public office ranging from Toledo City Council to State Representative, serving four terms on the former Lucas County School Board now known as the Governing Board of Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West.

As an elected official and party activist she liked to keep a low profile in league, valuing our non-partisan status but supportive of the mission, attending meetings, helping with projects. As another long time League member, Uta Schaub, said "I respected her a lot, and the last thing we did together was collecting signatures at the annual ACLU meeting 2012 for something that failed in the end. But we tried, and that counts. And we need to keep doing just that, trying. Cheers to Karen!" That was indeed Karen's philosophy: keep trying. We all echo Uta, Cheers to you Karen!

Bill Searles

Bill and Joan Searles were longtime household members of league and often attended consensus meetings together where both, but especially Bill, could be counted on to examine the issue logically and with some depth. Joan was typically the active member of the two, working on committees and contributing her time and counsel. After Joan died in 2012 Bill joined the board of directors. When he was first approached he hesitated before agreeing but said that "unless one is willing to take some responsibility for the direction an organization is going one can't complain about that direction, of course I'll serve." Despite his continuing illness and increasing debility he served faithfully on the board until April 4 when he died; his term is complete at this year's Annual Meeting. He could be counted on to approach whatever problem or issue the board faced calmly, asking astute questions and submitting them to clear analysis. He participated in every activity. Don Wonnell, another board member but more recent League member shared this assessment of Bill: he was "always a polite man who gave his last energy speaking out for what he thought was right. With his ailment it was life shortening to speak very loudly, but I recall several times he did that anyway because he believed something wasn't right. He worked for the rights of others. Brave guy...We will miss him, and I miss him." He was a gentleman, in all senses of that word. We will indeed miss him but continue to examine issues by thinking "what would Bill say about this?" We send our warm and heartfelt regard to his family.



The Voter

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Spring 2014

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Ann Fabiszak Payne, Editor

Contact editor at hosea.payne@utoledo.edu to submit information or articles for the Voter.



Join the League!

The League of Women Voters of Toledo-Lucas County is part of a nationwide group of women and men who care about democracy. Join us and become part of a group that since 1920 has worked to keep the power of democracy in the hands of the people.

Name: _____ Date: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone: _____
EMAIL: _____

Membership Levels

- ___ \$55 Olive Colton (Local, state and national memberships and all publications)
- ___ \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt (Memberships plus a \$20 contribution to general fund)
- ___ \$100 Susan B. Anthony (Memberships plus a \$45 contribution to general fund)
- ___ \$27.50 Additional household member (Local, state and national memberships)
- ___ \$30 Full-time Student (Local, state and national memberships and all publications) is also rate for associate members: non citizens and students under age 18.

Membership checks should be made payable to LWV-TLC. Any contribution above the basic \$55 membership fee will be gratefully accepted as a non tax-deductible donation to the LWV/TLC general fund for operating expenses.

Tax-deductible donations can be made with a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

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