



# THE VOTER

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

founded 1921

[www.lwvtoledo.org](http://www.lwvtoledo.org)

Winter 2014

## LWVTLC Hosts NWO Regional Meeting *Feb. 15, 10am to 12:30pm, Kent Branch Library*

Northwest Ohio Leagues of Women Voters will meet in Toledo to hear representatives from the LWV Ohio discuss the LWVUS Agricultural Study, a proposal from the Cuyahoga Area Leagues to study primary elections and continue the information sharing and discussion from the last regional meeting about voter education for judicial elections.

These meetings are opportunities to meet and exchange ideas not only with the LWVO board officers and staff but also fellow league members from the Perrysburg, Bowling Green, Tiffin and Lima areas.

At the 2012 LWVUS convention it was decided to restudy the League's position on agriculture with the aim of updating it. The review is aimed at examining some of the changes in agriculture since the 1988 position was approved. Local leagues across the country are studying and reaching consensus on genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling. For those interested, study materials are available at [www.lwvo.org](http://www.lwvo.org) and come to the regional meeting to learn more.

The Cuyahoga area leagues are planning to propose a new LWVUS study at the convention in Dallas this summer: **Alternatives to Partisan Primaries**. The point of the study would be to determine the kinds of primaries that have the best chance to increase voter participation and provide competitive general elections. To see the proposal go to [www.cuyahogaarea.org](http://www.cuyahogaarea.org) and come to the regional meeting to learn more.

At the last regional meeting the League's March 2008 eight point plan for an independent judiciary was discussed along with state Supreme Court Chief Justice O'Connor's May 2013 eight point plan for improving judicial selection. To see both of these go to [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org) and <http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/SCO/justices/oconnor/default.aspx> Come to the meeting and learn more about voter education efforts for judicial races.

### *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*

#### *February*

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

**14** Happy Birthday LWV!

**15** NWO LWVO Regional Meeting Kent Branch Library, 3101 Collingwood Blvd., 10 am to 12:30 pm

**22** Board meeting via conference call

#### *March*

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

**12** General Meeting LWVUS Agricultural Study Consensus Heatherdowns Branch Library, 3265 Glanzman Rd., Toledo 6 to 8 pm.

**17** Community Shares "Share our Dreams" fundraiser, tickets on sale

**24** Registration deadline for statehouse day, April 9

**Calendar continues pg. 5**

## *President's Letter*

Dear Leaguers,

While it's pretty cold and snowy outside now might be a good time to turn your thoughts toward June and the LWVUS Convention in Dallas Tx. I'm going as the LWVTLC's representative and want to urge anyone who can to come. A league convention is an amazing experience. Leaguers from all over the US including the Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands come and for those few days immerse themselves in issues that have political solutions. The fascinating speakers and lively debate and discussion will inspire you to come back home with a renewed sense of what we can accomplish together.

I know it's a commitment of money as well as time. Our league will be able to pay the registration fee of \$335 for another person with a little bit left over for other expenses. Please let me know if you're interested.

One of the things that happens at convention is deciding whether the league as a whole should do a national study. The Cuyahoga Area Leagues are proposing just that. They would like LWVUS to study primary elections with the idea that some types of primaries might foster increased voter turnout and more competitive elections than others.

The upcoming Regional Meeting on Feb. 15, at Kent Library will present Cuyahoga Area Leagues' proposal for our examination and discussion. So please come to the Regional Meeting and hear what the Cuyahoga Area Leagues have to say.

Attending meetings is one way to stay informed, included in this Voter is the calendar for the year. We hope you will come and participate in League events. You are the League.

I want to commend the hard work done on the TRY, a publication that provides necessary information to citizens and gets our name mentioned in the community, but we're not done yet. We still have to get them to the locations that give them away and could use some help doing that. Please call Ann if you're willing to take a few to your neighborhood senior center or can think of a likely place to take them.

Yvette Thompson Gordon

### **2013-14 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## *Feb. Conference Call Topic: Water Issues*

On Tuesday, February 4, at noon, the Executive Director of the LWV of Ohio, Carrie Davis, chaired a one-hour phone call conference on water issues in the state. She wanted to know what are the members' concerns in their communities, and what can we do about them? Where should we focus our education and advocacy? She divided the time into three sections: the Ohio River watershed and southern Ohio, Lake Erie and northern Ohio, central Ohio and other water issues.

Everyone on the call (all members of LWV in Ohio were invited) from southern Ohio was asked for his/her concerns. The recent drinking water pollution in West Virginia was brought up, with implications for the Ohio River being a worry. Cincinnati gets 80% of its drinking water from the Ohio River. Discussions are going on now about allowing barges on the river to carry fracking waste. The Coast Guard is reviewing whether they can, because with a spill/accident, the river could be contaminated. There are no safeguards within the barges, e.g., they are not double-hulled. The contents of the waste are not public as they are considered "trade secrets."

In the second part, about our area, blue-green algae has already briefly contaminated a town's drinking water, and that could happen to Toledo. Currently, the biggest source of phosphorus in the Lake is probably a wastewater plant in Detroit, highlighting the need for regional approaches, too. \*Senate Bill 150 in process now is very inadequate. The issue of too much manure used in agriculture was originally addressed in the bill, then taken out. The bill sets licensing limits when soil phosphorus limits makes more sense. Also, on Asian carp, complete separation of the tributaries and the Lakes should be our position. The Ohio River is also at risk.

For central Ohio, the discussion centered on fracking. The background given on the call is available on the LWVO website, under Issues & Advocacy, Fracking.

As a newcomer to the League, I was dazzled by the diligence, knowledge and active citizenship displayed by the Advocacy Committee, Carrie Davis, and the members. Clearly, I need to get more up to speed! Kudos to the League!

Nancy Hughes

\* editor's note: See Toledo Blade editorial *More than Voluntary*, Feb. 12, 2014, online edition Feb 11.

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### *TRYs Available Soon*

The **2014 Directory of Public Officials, They Represent You**, a current listing of all the elected officials in Lucas County and their contact information, is at the printer and will be available soon. We will be distributing copies to the library system, senior centers, community organizations, and at all league events. The TRYs are free of charge and will also be available directly from the league by calling the league line 419 475 4371 and on our website

[www.lwvtoledo.org](http://www.lwvtoledo.org).

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard on putting this edition of the TRY together. Our sincere gratitude goes to Diane Hamilton, Barb Colvin, Don Wonnell, Kathy Chamberlain, Kevin Haddad, Ann Fabiszak Payne.

## ***MARCH 31 DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS TO CORPS OF ENGINEERS***

### ***RE: SOLUTION TO ASIAN CARP INFESTATION THREAT TO GREAT LAKES***

The Lake Erie Basin Committee is calling for leaguers to support the hydrologic separation of the Chicago Waterway System from the Great Lakes, to be implemented as soon as possible and not in 25 years as proposed by the Corps of Engineers. The Corps recently completed their Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) and is holding public hearings on the study which proposes eight alternative plans to limit/inhibit the movement of aquatic nuisance species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. They identified 13 species that are threats to these waterways with the two Asian Carp species in the top three.

Speakers, including Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Attorney General Mike Dewine, at the January 31 public meeting held in Cleveland, unanimously reiterated the need to protect the Great Lakes and especially our Lake, Erie. Their importance as a large source of fresh water and an economic force in the region is unquestioned. All who commented were highly disappointed by the Corps' time estimate ranging from 10 to 25 years of completion of any of the three proposals that would separate the systems. To see the report go to [glmris.anl.gov](http://glmris.anl.gov). Any solution is estimated in the billions of dollars to implement; and, therefore, would require congressional budgetary support. The LEBC is urging us to contact both the Corps and our representatives and senators to make it known that the solution to this problem is a priority.

Additional public meetings are scheduled for Feb 11 in Portage IN and Feb 13 in Buffalo NY. To make a comment either write the Corps at Office of Public Affairs, Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 231 S. LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604 or call (312)846-5330 or e-mail: [glmris@usace.army.mil](mailto:glmris@usace.army.mil) Contact Sen. Sherrod Brown at 888-896-6446 or [senator\\_brown@brown.senate.gov](mailto:senator_brown@brown.senate.gov) and Sen. Rob Portman at 419-259-3895 or [rob\\_portman@portman.senate.gov](mailto:rob_portman@portman.senate.gov). Contact Rep. Latta at 800-541-6446 or through his web page [www.latta.house.gov](http://www.latta.house.gov) and Rep. Kaptur at 419-255-9623 or [rep.kaptur@mail.house.gov](mailto:rep.kaptur@mail.house.gov).

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### *Statehouse Day April 9*



LWV Ohio annual statehouse day and council in Columbus is Wednesday, April 9. This is a great opportunity especially for new leaguers to meet other members from across the state while we learn what's happening in the legislature and consider the local effects. The day will be full of engaging presentations on important issues critical to Ohioans such as election administration and voting rights, judicial reform, women's reproductive health rights, clean water and water usage. The event will be held at the Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street in downtown Columbus. Please register by March 24, 2014 via the website [www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org), or email or call Barbara Herman [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org), 614-469-1505. Fees for attending are \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members and \$25 for students and include all materials, refreshments and lunch.

If you are interested in car pooling, call the league line 419 475 4371 to connect with other leaguers making the trip to Columbus.

# Voter Services Committee Update

## Calendar Continued

### April

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

**5** Board/General Meeting, LWVTLC Program Planning Washington Library, 5560 Harvest Ln. Toledo, 11 am.

**7** Deadline for registration for May primary election

**9** LWVO Statehouse Day Columbus, 8:30 am to 4:00pm.

### May

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

#### Primary Election

**21** Lake Erie Basin Committee meeting in Toledo, location TBA

**22** LWVTLC Annual Meeting

### June

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

**6-10** LWVUS Convention Dallas, Texas

**18** Joint/Change over Board Meeting

The Voter Services Committee is the lifeblood committee of the League. It's where voter education and registration efforts begin. In late January a group of leaguers met to start the planning work for the year ahead.

Although the November general election seems far away, the May primary is right around the corner and getting a voters guide ready takes time. We're in the process of creating questions appropriate to the offices in contention and creating a time line for doing the work of making the guide happen. Remember, this is the election for a couple of county offices, some local judgeships, all of our state representatives, one of our state senators, all the state executive offices and our two congressional representatives.

Another effort of voter services is voter registration. We will go anywhere to register voters or perhaps, more realistically, anywhere we go we are ready to register voters. An interesting and pretty sad statistic that has not escaped the committee's attention is the low rate of voter turnout in Lucas County.

According to the US Census the county has a population of 18 year olds and older of about 335,507. The county board of elections has reported 311,647 people registered to vote for the general election of 2013 and a turnout of 81,625 voters. Those are pretty amazing numbers. When you consider that it is not likely all of the population cited in the census would be eligible to vote, the registration rate in the county is very high but the actual number of people exercising their franchise is extremely low.

Why? is the obvious question the committee is asking itself and that we're thinking strongly of grappling with. These conversations are in the very initial stages but open to anyone who is interested in taking part. The committee members, Theresa Mills, Mary Ann Player, Sara Wenzel, Kathy Chamberlain, Brenda Hill, Don Wonnell, Diane Hamilton, Ann Fabiszak Payne, will be meeting again after the Regional Meeting at Kent Library. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic and important committee, please come. If you can't make the meeting but are interested in these issues, contact either Theresa Mills or Ann Fabiszak Payne using the information listed on page 2.

## 51st NATIONAL LWVUS CONVENTION

### DALLAS, TEXAS JUNE 6-10

The convention theme is ***Power: Our Voices, Our Votes***

Located at the Omni Dallas Downtown Hotel, registration deadline is May 23, 2014, registration fee is \$335.

Fee includes participation in all trainings, briefings, caucuses, general sessions, and national networking events, and includes the LWVUS-hosted banquet and program on Monday evening.

**Go to [lww.org](http://lww.org) for more information**



## The Voter

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[www.lwvtoledo.org](http://www.lwvtoledo.org)

Winter 2014

Yvette Thompson Gordon, President  
Ann Fabiszak Payne, Editor

Contact editor at [hosea.payne@utoledo.edu](mailto: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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