

## 2017 LWV-TLC Signature Event - report for 2016 Annual Meeting

As of this date, I am working with April 29, 2017 as the date for the LWV-TLC Signature Event Fundraiser. I would like to see it be for 250 to 300 in attendance. I had to consider Snow in Jan - Mar, Easter Holiday and Passover celebrations.

Over the past few months speaking with some of the Board members, as well as many of my non-League friends, I have concluded that the theme be related to the "Constitution" in some manner.

With that said, let me explain: The LWV-TLC is always looking for ways to increase membership, especially with our young voters. What better way to involve them than in a prestigious Community event. My thought is to contact the local colleges and high schools to request them to create a project based on some aspect related to the Constitution for the event. We will contact them in June to save the date and then again in September to allow enough time for their completion by our deadline of around April 1. That way we will be able to make a proper floor plan including the projects, seating, etc. and not have so many last minute changes - only a few if needed.

The Committee will establish guidelines for the students to follow, such as topic, size of area, display materials, etc. The students will need to have two representatives present the night of the event to explain their project to the attendees. To make it even more interesting, I feel we should invite area Government and History teachers to be judges for the displays. Thus, removing the chance of "favoritism" voting (or stacking the vote) by having many attendees from only one school.

We should have a special category - giving each event guest a chance to vote for their favorite - with voting done by putting tickets in a bucket at each display. This would be a fun way for all of the guests to participate and view each project. We would set a deadline time for voting by the guests so we can count them in time for presentation of prizes. We can determine prizes in our Committee meetings. Perhaps a League Membership in addition to the prize would be good.

Of course, by having judging of the projects involved, it would force the projects to be of good quality and not some "thrown-together-the-night-before" mess.

In addition, by involving the schools and their teachers as judges, we gain not only them, but also other students and teachers as well as family members along for the evening. It will be a true Community Event - which is what the League is about - Community Involvement. It will be a great learning experience for those doing the projects as well as an "activity" for those in attendance before dinner/reception. I hope that it will educate and enlighten everyone about the Constitution.

For our keynote speaker we should have a notable Supreme Court Judge, such as Judge Ginsberg, or other such dignity. This will be the draw as well as the projects to bring people to the event. Media coverage will be key.

For our event venue, I have already contacted The Pinnacle in Maumee, Stranahan Great Hall, Premier Catering, UT Driscoll Alumni Center, the Andersons and the Main Downtown Toledo Lucas County Library. The Andersons can only hold up to 100 - they are out. However, they did say we could hold smaller functions there as needed. Hint, Hint! The UT Driscoll Alumni Center is divided into too many areas and 250 will be a tight fit. Premier Catering is booked for our date.

The remaining places have special items unique to each location, which will require a comparison spreadsheet and review before a final decision made. I plan to do this analysis and have ready for the first committee meeting. There can be others that I contact so if anyone has ideas please let me know prior to May 28. Dates are booking fast especially with Proms for next year being set already at some places. We need to set the location now.

Other considerations to include are: dinner being a buffet, plated meal or just heavy appetizers/reception; centerpieces; Silent Auction Item procurement; any favors for our guests; printed program; total cost of ticket; design of flyer/invitation; information mailing and/or distribution of flyers; involvement of any Sponsors for sold full-tables as well as for other donations of money/Silent Auction items with those names listed in the program. We can easily include a sentence about sending a monetary donation for the Education Fund - in case they are unable to attend the event and still wish to help.

This is a huge undertaking and I am fully aware of what such an event entails. By beginning our planning now, we alleviate a lot of stress. My plan is to be ready to sell tickets by at least October. Thus, starting sales in the "gift-giving" season, which allow tickets to be purchased for that unusual gift idea. As soon as possible after our first meeting, the initial information will be available to post on the website and Facebook page.

Our first Committee meeting is on Tuesday May 31 at 6:30pm at my house and I welcome everyone to be a part of this. Please RSVP so I know how many treats and tea/coffee to prepare. Feel free to contact me with your ideas and/or questions at 419-474-1103 or [ajoutdoors@bex.net](mailto:ajoutdoors@bex.net)