



THE LOCAL VOTER



Volume XII Issue III

Trumbull County Edition

August/September 2010

**Summer Sizzle
“Family Fun Day” 2010
Saturday, August 7
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Rain or Shine**

The LWVTC will have a booth at the Trumbull County Agriculture and Family Education Center, 520 W. Main St. in Cortland. We have participated in this great event since its inception, beginning with a small tent doing voter registration and selling Sloppy Joes. We have **grown!!** We will be selling our “now famous” sausage sandwiches for \$4.50 which includes pop and chips. Last year we sold out of 70 sandwiches by 2 pm.

This year, in addition to selling the sandwiches, we also have two patriotic baskets to be raffled. This event has turned out to be a major fundraiser!! Please come out and support our League.

Workers are still needed for anytime after 1 p.m. until closing. **COME OUT AND JOIN IN THE FUN!** Contact Eddie Wolcott, chairperson at 330-856-2572 to see how you can help.

**Women’s Equality Day
Thursday, August 26, 2010
Noon
The Women’s Park
Mahoning Ave. NW, Warren**

Guest Speaker:

Michelle Lambert, Project Manager for Chevy Cruze
GM Lordstown

Special Presentation:

“Interview of Harriet Taylor Upton by Zel Hart Deming”

Entertainment:

Bill Klein, student, YSU Dana School of Music



The celebration will begin at noon with the Presentation of Colors by the U.S. Army, Warren Recruiting Station. Mayor O’Brien will also join us to present proclamations to the co-sponsors in honor of Women’s Equality Day. Refreshments will be served afterward courtesy of members of the co-sponsoring organizations. Please come out in support of this momentous occasion. Bring a lawn chair as seating is minimal. This event is free and open to the public.



Refreshments will be provided by the four co-sponsoring organizations for Women’s Equality Day. As such, the LWVTC & WJWL will be providing hors’ devours. Please contact Phyllis Savelle at phyllisj@yahoo.com or 330-856-6272 if you are willing to donate a small hors’ devours of any kind. We are planning for 100 individuals to attend the event. Please contact Phyllis by **Wednesday, August 18**. Thank you!!

**Membership Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2010
6:00 pm**

**Trumbull County Board of Elections
Youngstown-Warren Rd., Warren**

Speakers: Kelly Pallante, Executive Director
Jodi Fiorenzo Dibble, Deputy Director

Topic: Current and Relevant Information for the November General Election

**Membership Meeting
Monday, September 27, 2010
5:30 pm
Chop House
Warren-Sharon Rd., Howland**

Speakers: Melissa Long & Roberta O’Keefe, LWV of Kent

Topic: Regionalism Study and Report of Findings

September Meeting - mark your calendar!

Many of you will remember Melissa as a long time active member of our League. She now resides in Kent and is active in the League there.

This will be a dinner meeting. Final preparations are being made at the time of this newsletter. All League members will be contacted regarding reservations and menu.

For non-League members, the information will be available on our website at <http://www.orgsites.com/oh/lwvtc/> and will also appear in the news media.

President's Remarks from the 70th Annual Meeting

By Terri Crabbs, President



I will now start my fourth and final year as your president. I thank you for the opportunity to continue to lead our League. I am excited that we are headed down the right road in growing our League and continuing to be a visible, reliable and trusted organization here in Trumbull County.

My personal goals for my last year as president will be much the same as the last three years. I will continue to work with our Board to lead our League to be strong and active and to continue to work toward developing our "members" into "active members" through encouragement of hands on involvement. There will continue to be more opportunities for our members to become involved. There is a niche in our League for everyone.

I will continue to focus on consistency in our membership meetings and events looking to hold the interest of you, the membership. I will continue to keep our League focused in two or three areas and be good at what we do versus being here, there and everywhere and I will strive to keep an open mind at all times to new and innovative ways to make our League one step above other Leagues.

Our League is a volunteer organization, we are all volunteers, we aren't paid for what we do, we do what we do because we believe in the mission of the League of Women Voters. We all have a common ground in our League and that is to educate ourselves and encourage informed and active participation in government. Let's keep up the good work that we do!

My thanks to all of you here today who share in and believe in the League of Women Voters and its mission. Thank you for your support during this last year. I look forward to continued growth in our League, the growth of the many friendships I have made through the League and to new friendships that I hope to make because of our League.

Thank you!

LWV of Trumbull County Annual Meeting May 15, 2010

The 70th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County was held on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at DiLucia's Banquet Center in Warren.

Guest speaker was Elizabeth C. Clark, a retired teacher and history "buff" who presented "The United States Constitution". Each attendee received their own personal copy of the Constitution courtesy of the Ohio Secretary of State's Office. Unfortunately the 40 minutes allotted for Mrs. Clark's presentation was not nearly enough time for her to enlighten us with her expertise and knowledge!! Thank you Liz!

Eddie Wolcott presented the following outgoing board members with a small token of appreciation for their time and energies in serving the community through the League of Women Voters of Trumbull County. The outgoing board members were: *Pamela Hallett*, director and past 2nd vice president/membership chair; *Hattie Hawkins*, director; *Gwen Logan*, treasurer and *Danielle Schmidt*, director and past 1st vice president. Thank you ladies for your service!



Seated l-r; Charlotte Meloni, Treasurer; Nancy Lorey, Director; Phyllis Savelle, Director. Standing l-r, Terri Crabbs, President; Dorie Harris, Director; Eddie Wolcott, Director, Peggy Boyd, Director, Janice Hardman, 1st VP; Alice Cosgrove, Director; Sue Smith, Secretary and Kirsten Burkey, 2nd VP. Missing from photo is Mary Hoke, Director.

The following individuals were elected by membership with term expirations of 2012: Kirsten Burkey, 2nd vice president/membership chair; Charlotte Meloni, treasurer; Mary Hoke and Dorie Harris, directors. Appointed to one year director terms were Peggy Boyd, Nancy Lorey and Phyllis Savelle. Thank you ladies for stepping up to leadership positions. We look forward to working with you.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVUS Convention 2010
By: Erica Greer, past president, LWV of Akron Area



Note: Unfortunately there were no members from LWVTC who were able to attend the National Convention held in June in Atlanta, Georgia. However, we were very fortunate to have Erica Greer, past president for the LWV of Akron Area represent our League as a delegate. A big thank you to Erica for providing us with the following report.

Convention 2010 in Atlanta, although smaller than usual (602 delegates) was as exhilarating an experience as ever. The five days were packed with caucuses, workshops, and plenary sessions from 7:30 AM until 10:00 PM, with a little time out for meals. There were wonderful speakers, including Civil Rights activist John Lewis, a panel of past LWVUS presidents, and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius, all of whom were so inspirational. Secretary Sebelius's remarks can be read on the LWVUS website.

Much business was also accomplished at convention. Concurrences, resolutions, program, PMP, and the budget were presented, debated, and voted on. It's actually hard to believe in retrospect that we managed to get through all the business without cutting into workshops or caucuses!

Here is an abbreviated list of items passed at convention:

Studies:

- 1) Convention adopted the LWVUS Board recommended study of the Federal Role in Public Education. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.
- 2) Convention also adopted the non-recommended study on privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector. (Scope to be determined by the LWVUS board)

Concurrences:

1) Marriage Equality

Convention adopted unanimously the following position to be added to the Equality of Opportunity position: *The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations, and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved.*

2) Arms Control

Convention adopted the LWVUS Board proposed concurrence to update the arms control position (see all the changes on the LWVUS website)

3) National Popular Vote

Convention adopted by concurrence that the following words be added as the third sentence to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."

Resolutions:

A number of resolutions were passed at convention, including:

- 1) Support for lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba;
- 2) Support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources, including strengthening appropriate regulations, oversight, inspection, and penalties, as well as eliminating exemptions for environmental regulations such as the Clean Air Act;
- 3) Support for LWVUS to call upon the Senate to limit the use of the filibuster;
- 4) To add the principle of Transparency to the SARA Resolution (Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; Transparency)
- 5) Call upon LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all;
- 6) Support for LWVUS to call upon those responsible for the Gulf oil disaster to be held accountable and liable.

Bylaws:

- 1) In Article III, Section 2, the word "honorary" was removed in reference to life members (many of these members are still active); **you should change your bylaws to reflect that change.**
- 2) The budget was changed from a one-year to a two-year budget to be adopted at convention.

(continued on Page 4)

LWVUS Convention 2010 (continued from Page 3)

PMP

Although LWVUS recommended a PMP increase of \$.40, to \$29.60, for FY 2010-2011, it was amended upward to \$29.70 in light of the fact that a second study was approved.

PMP for 2011-2012 was passed at \$30.00.

LWVUS Board will be studying an alternative funding method, as it recognizes that the current use of PMP is not sustainable over the long term. There should be a proposal not later than convention 2012 in Washington, D.C.

Welcome to New President of the LWVUS...Elizabeth MacNamara

Excerpt from the LWVUS Web Page



Last month, hundreds of League supporters came together in Atlanta to celebrate the League's 90th anniversary, discuss critical policy issues, and elect Atlanta resident Elisabeth MacNamara as the new national president of the League of Women Voters.

Elisabeth's stirring acceptance speech highlighted the League's major accomplishments over the last 90 years -- and sent a clear message that our work is not done. MacNamara thanked members for entrusting her with the leadership of this 90-year-old organization. "I am excited and delighted to lead the League of Women Voters of the United States to new heights," MacNamara said. "The League and its 150,000 grassroots members and supporters will continue to raise our voices in the fight for climate change reform, campaign finance reform, voter education and election reform. Let's go out there and get in the way!" MacNamara urged. (Go to LWVUS.org to read her speech in its entirety.)

A League member since 1983, MacNamara ascended to the presidency of the Georgia League in 2001 and served in this capacity until 2006. MacNamara was elected to a two-year term on the LWVUS national Board as a director in 2006 and was also the organization's first vice president until 2010.

Elisabeth's expertise and strong leadership come at a time when the stakes could not be higher for people like you who care about open, honest government and democracy. Welcome Elisabeth!

Membership News

By: Kirsten Burkey, 2nd VP & Membership Chair

Thank you and **Welcome** to all the renewed and new members for 2010-2011.

Our fiscal year goes from July 1 to June 30 to coincide with LWVUS. Annual dues have to be paid by August 31 or the member's name has to be dropped from our membership roll. We have dues assistance for anyone who can't manage the \$60 dues. Please contact me for the form.

A reminder notice was sent to all members who haven't renewed and will be followed by a phone call before the deadline. Please feel free to call me (330) 638-7536 if you have any questions.

We encourage members to invite any interested friends or acquaintances to our meetings. As you know we survive with active members. If you give me the names and contact information of interested people, I will contact them also.

All members will receive updated information about our League for your member's notebook at the August meeting. Also, new members, if you haven't received a members notebook, please let me know. The notebooks will be available at the August meeting too. If you can't make the meeting, I will have the information at the following meetings.

Thank you...

All League Members—Thank you for being supportive of our League and working to help us to grow...everyone's contribution is what makes us ... The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County. **Thank you!**

County Election Boards Make Strides in November 2009 Election



The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund issued a report in June entitled “Off to A Good Start.” The report summarizes interviews with 22 county boards of elections by local Leagues across Ohio to monitor compliance with the terms of the *LWVO et al. vs. Brunner* Lawsuit Settlement Agreement. The agreement ended four years of litigation begun in 2005 by the League of Women Voters of Ohio against the offices of the Secretary of State and the Governor. The lawsuit asserted that Ohio’s election system was deeply flawed and had been dysfunctional for 30 years.

Highlights of the report:

- County boards of elections are largely complying with the terms of the lawsuit settlement agreement.
- Problems that arose on election day 2009 were generally addressed and quickly resolved.
- Counties are, on the whole, doing a good job of training poll workers, but many boards still need more trained poll workers.
- Full compliance with accessibility laws remains a challenge, although boards took steps to assist voters where accessibility was limited.
- The county boards of elections approached by local Leagues were generally willing to share information to show their commitment to making the election process work for Ohio voters.

Scott Britton, who authored the report, had this to say: “This process was a great way to continue to build partnerships between local Leagues and county boards of elections because ultimately we all want the same thing: fair elections that allow all eligible voters to fully participate. Many of our League interview teams commented on the willingness of the county boards to share information about what they were doing to make elections run smoothly”.

A copy of the complete report can be found on the League website at www.lwvohio.org.

The League will continue to work with the Secretary of State and county boards of elections to collect information and offer suggestions for improvements through the term of the settlement agreement, which expires in 2015.

NOTE: *The Trumbull County Board of Elections was one of the 22 county boards of elections taking part in the interviews.*

OBSERVERS: THE EYES AND EARS OF THE LEAGUE

By: Charlotte Meloni , Treasurer & Chair of Observer Corps

Basic to effective League activity in a community is understanding how the local government works. A local League observer is the eyes and ears of the League, learning how government works and about issues that are or may become items for local study and action. The objective is to monitor governmental bodies for information of importance to the League and the community/state.

The Observer Corps have continued to observe the meetings of the County Commissioners, the Board of Elections and added the meetings of Cortland Trustees. There are now 6 trained observers with plans in process to begin observing the Warren City Council. We have begun instituting an on-line reporting process so that all LWVTC members can be aware of what has happened at the meetings that are observed.

Anyone interested in joining the Observer Corps (it only takes approximately 2 hours a month) or having suggestions for an entity to be observed, please contact Charlotte Meloni at Stulljv1@aol.com or 330-876-9702.

2010 Voter Information Guide

By Terri Crabbs, Chair & Phyllis Savelle, Co-Chair

The Voter Information Guide (“VIG”) Committee: Kirsten Burkey, Dorie Harris, Charlotte Meloni, Terri Crabbs & Phyllis Savelle have been meeting since January working on solicitation of sponsors for the VIG. To date, they have had donations made toward the VIG in the amount of \$1,605.

Work has begun on compiling candidate names and mailing out questionnaires. Once the questionnaires are returned they will be typed, proofread and sent to the Lyle Printing for publication. We are planning on printing 10,000 of the guides which will need to be distributed within the county.

The Voter Guides will be done and ready to distribute by Oct. 1. We will need a lot of members to help distribute them around the county by region. It won't take long if each member does a part. Kirsty will be asking for volunteers at the August meeting. If you know of a particular business or organization that would like some Guides to distribute let Kirsty know.

Statehouse Day & State Council—April 14, 2010

By: Charlotte Meloni, Treasurer

Terri Crabbs & Charlotte Meloni attended Statehouse Day and State Council Day in Columbus on April 14, 2010. The day began at 9:30 with the Welcome (complete with the O-H-I-O chant) by Meg Flack, President LWVO, followed by the Keynote Address presented by Janine Hancock Jones, Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor Ted Strickland.

The morning workshops included: Health Care Reform: The Impact on Ohio by Doug Anderson, Chief Policy Officer, Ohio Department of Insurance (attended by Charlotte), HBI: A Systemic Constitutional Overhaul of Ohio's Educational System by Dr. John d. Stanford, Executive Assistant for Education Policy to governor Ted Strickland, and Historic Election Lawsuit Settlement Project Update by Scott Britton, Project Manager (attended by Terri).

During the lunch break we attended the Council Call to Order and General Session with the budget being presented and debated. The Board also presented their findings on any cost savings on the PMP's as directed by the leagues of Trumbull, Metro Columbus, Perrysburg Area, Cleveland Area, in savings on electronically received publications. The Board found that there would be no significant savings if the Ohio Voter were delivered electronically. For the full report see Terri or Charlotte.

The afternoon workshops included: Democracy In Action! Organizing a Successful Community Campaign for Systemic Change by Terry Pastika, Executive Director, Citizen Advocacy Center (attended by Charlotte), and What Would an Appointment/Retention-Election System Look Like in Ohio? By Nancy Brown, State League Advocacy Committee Chair (attended by Terri).

After the workshops the delegates reconvened for a vote at the General Council Session and Legislative Reception. We went to the Statehouse for a tour of the Capital Building and of course the gift shop!

The League of Women Voters of Trumbull County is open to all citizens over the age of 18 who believe in representative government. Local League membership is not tax deductible, but does entitle you to state and national League membership. Men are invited to join with full privileges. Dues assistance is available upon request. *Membership checks must be made payable to LWVTC.*

Individual Dues—\$60

Two at same address—\$30 each add'l person

30 years old and younger—\$30

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

I support the work of LWV of Trumbull County and would like to make a monetary donation toward their mission in the amount of :

\$25 ___ **\$50** ___ **\$75** ___ **\$100** ___ **Other \$** ___

A separate check must be made payable to the *LWVTC Education Fund*. All contributions to the League's Education Fund are tax-deductible and will be used only for educational endeavors.

Please return this form to:
LWV of Trumbull County
P.O. Box 161
Fowler, Ohio 44418

Or

For additional information on membership, please contact Kirsten Burkey, Membership Chair at 330-367-4886.

Photo Gallery—Annual Meeting, May 15, 2010



Seated l-r; Pam Hallett; Kelly Pallante; Joann Johntony and new member Sandy Mahaffey



Seated l-r; Nancy Lorey, Director; Kirsten Burkey, 2nd Vice President and Jeanne Evans.

LWVTC Members.....Keeping in Touch!

- **Local Voter Newsletter Distribution.** The Local Voter costs the League approximately \$1.24 a copy. This includes the paper/copying/postage. Last year we were able to email our newsletter out to all but 2 individuals who did not have email addresses. We also want to be certain that since we are emailing the newsletter that you are indeed reading it and/or printing it out on your own for reading later. With the cost of postage and copying costs AND the postage increase that is due again soon, it really helps defray the cost to the League by using email.

If for some reason you are not able to print out the newsletter, please contact Co-Editors Terri Crabbs at tcrabbs@aol.com or 330-637-3845 or Janice Hardman at jancat40@aol.com or 330-394-6605 and request that you receive a paper copy.

We are also always looking for news worthy items to share with our membership. The Local Voter will be published four times this year: August/September; October/November (cut off date September 20); January/February (cut off date December 20); March/April (cut off date February 20).

- **WEB SITE.** LWVTC has had a website for over a year now. It is regularly updated and contains various current information that we hope will help you and give you an area to refer non-Leaguers to visit. If there is something that you would like to see on the website, please contact Terri.

Our website address is: <http://www.orgsites.com/oh/lwvtc/>

- **FACEBOOK.** LWVTC also has a Facebook account and can be found by searching for *LWV of Trumbull County, Ohio*. Be a Friend keep in touch with current information and events as they happen. Invite your friends to join us on Facebook as well as to the next meeting.

The Dos and Do Nots....For Contacting Government Officials

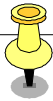
Do:

- Get in contact!
- Let government official know when you agree with them, not just when you disagree.
- Be brief and to the point; discuss only one issue, and include a bill reference if possible
- Clearly express your opinions or ideas
- Use your own words to express your opinion
- Include your address and signature
- Be courteous and reasonable
- Make contact early in the session before a bill has been introduced if you have ideas about an issue you would like to see incorporated in legislation
- Contact the chair and members of a committee holding hearings on legislation in which you are interested
- While you have more influence with the representative from your own district, you are not precluded from contacting representatives from other districts
- Contact each government official individually; it's courteous and more effective

Don't:

- Apologize for contacting them—your opinion is not an imposition, and your representative is elected in part to hear your views
- Begin on the righteous note of “as a citizen and taxpayer”
- Be vague
- Be rude or threatening
- Sign and send a form or photo copied letter or e-mail

***Do As Much Or As Little As You Want, But Remember...
Democracy is Not a Spectator Sport!***



LWV of Trumbull County Calendar

2010

August 7	Summer Sizzle; 11—4 pm, Cortland
August 9	Board Meeting; 5:30 pm, Cleats Restaurant, Warren
August 23	Membership Meeting; 6 pm Trumbull Co. Board of Elections, Warren
August 26	Women's Equality Day; Noon, Women's Park, Warren
September 13	Board Meeting; 5:30 pm, Cleats Restaurant, Warren
September 27	Membership Meeting, 5:30 pm—The Chophouse, Howland; <i>Topic—Regionalism</i>
October 11	Board Meeting; 5:30 pm— TBA
October 25	Membership Meeting, 6 pm—McMenamy's, Niles
November 8	Board Meeting; 5:30 pm— TBA
November 20	Orientation Brunch; 9:30 am—TBA

2011

January 22	Legislative Brunch; 9:30 am— TBA
February 28	Membership Meeting; 6 pm—Hippodrome, Warren
March	Women's History Month—no membership meeting
April 25	Membership Meeting, 6 pm—Sunrise Inn, Warren
May 13-15	LWV-Ohio Convention—Maumee Bay-Toledo
May 21	Annual Meeting; 9:30 am—TBA

LWV OF TRUMBULL COUNTY
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