

# THE VOTER

**Members, be certain to include these meetings among your planned activities. Your participation makes League go!**



**LWV Mission:** The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan 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.

**ON THE WEB** – You may visit LWVP/SC on the Web at <http://www.lwvsciotoohio.org>

### How to Contact Us

- President**
- Sandra Reiser  
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## Calendar

**April 20, 2009**

**Annual Lacey Strafford Curtis Memorial Impact Awards for Community Service**

**Honorees: Clyde Willis (Retired County Engineer and Retiring Municipal Judge Richard Schisler**

**Presented with Town Hall Meeting**

**Topic: Primary Election Law; Open vs. Closed Primary**

**Location: Scioto County Welcome Center, 342 Second Street, Portsmouth**

**Time: 7:00 p.m.**

**Chair: Marilee Stephenson**

**April 23, 2009**

**Board of Directors Meeting - 4:00 p.m.**

**May 1-3, 2009**

**LWVO State Convention  
Dublin Crown Plaza Hotel  
Dublin, Ohio**

## Calendar

**May 18, 2009**

**Annual Meeting**

**Speaker: Jason Lovins, Managing Editor of The Portsmouth Daily Times**

**Location: Wharf Restaurant**

**6:00 p.m.**

**May 28, 2009**

**Board of Directors Meeting - 4:00 p.m.**

**LWVO Lobby Lunches are the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month 11:30 a.m. - Anyone is welcome to attend.**

**Where: Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus, 3rd Floor. Call 877-598-6446 for more info!**

## DEAR MEMBERS

Only two more meetings and we will end another great year for the League of Women Voters Portsmouth/Scioto County. We have two very important meetings coming in April and May. Check the calendar for dates, times, and speakers.

A special thanks to Dr. Rita Rice Morris for speaking at our March 23rd meeting. She covered several topics pertaining to the University.

Connie Stoner is still working on the Finance Drive and we hope all members will help support this important part of our League.

Please note that Gladys Reynolds and Lynne Rodeheffer have sent in the nominating report and members are requested to review this report and make nominations from the floor at the annual meeting on May 18th.

The Budget Committee has also finished their report. Please review the budget to be voted on before the May meeting. The Board voted to keep the dues the same as last year.

*Sandra Reiser, President*

## NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome our newest members to league. They are: Kay Gibson, Mary Haitz, Debbie Lang, and Angie Opperman. We will provide more information on our new members in our next newsletter.

## REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Gladys Reynolds and Lynne Rodeheffer, nominating committee, reports as follows:

### For LWV Officers for 2009-2011

President - Sandra Reiser  
Vice-President - Inez Bloomfield  
Secretary - Helen Wilkerson  
Board Members: Melanie Ogg, Kim Platzer, and Lu Wittenmyer  
Nominating Committee: Betsy Phillips and Margery Rodeheffer.

## STATEHOUSE DAY

Statehouse Day 2009 brought out more than 23 Legislators or their staff members to join more than 80 League members from across the state to become better informed on key issues and to network with each other as we continue to identify the League of Women Voters of Ohio as a key resource to the community and Ohio Legislators. The day was kicked off by a lively session entitled Anatomy of a Budget Crisis by Dr. Howard Fleeter. Dr. Fleeter provided an informative and entertaining perspective on the current state budget crisis and offered opinions on how we arrived at our current woes. Dr. Fleeter even provided insight on the impact of the Obama administration's Stimulus package and how it might bolster the Ohio Economy.

League members participated in lively discussion on Re-

gionalism by panelists Larry Wolpert, Chester Jourdan, Jr. and Michael Cochran. Regionalism has become a topic of interests to many local Leagues across the state. Witnessing the discussion between the panelists provided great insight to the variety of views regarding the pros and cons of such concepts.

The Statehouse Day Agenda included four concurrent workshops on: Health Care Reform, Education Funding Reform, Sunshine Law and Government Transparency and Election Reform. Each session featured expert presenters including our own League member Peg Rosenfield who is recognized nationally as an election reform expert. The legislators and staff members who attended these sessions expressed that they came away well informed and eager to build relationships with League members as we work for meaningful reform in the topic areas.

The day culminated with a presentation by Ohio House Speaker Armond Budish who shared Legislative Priorities and Economic Realities. Speaker Budish answered questions regarding Rail Service, the Budget Process and potential election reforms to be considered in this General Assembly.

## Finance Drive

Letters have been sent to the list of past contributors to the League, members, and others.

Connie Stoner, Finance Drive Chair, will be giving us the total receipts at our next board meeting and in the next *Voter*. Any member who has not received a Finance Drive letter and would like to contribute can contact Connie Stoner. Thank you letters and a copy of the 2009 Voter Facts will be mailed to each contributor.

### Facts for Voters

The 2009 Facts for Voters of Scioto County is hot off the press and ready for distribution. If you need additional copies, please call Sandra at 858-4302.

### MAY MEETING

At the annual meeting a presentation of the current League positions and consideration for readopting those positions will be voted upon by the membership.

1. Support for the City Manager form of government for the City of Portsmouth.
2. Support for measures to upgrade sewage treatment facilities to meet or exceed current minimum standards.
3. Support for provision of safe water to consumers at the lowest cost by the Portsmouth Water System; to support efforts by the System to inform/educate consumers about water quality on a continuing basis; support development of short-term and long-term plans to upgrade

the water treatment and distribution process.

4. Support of local recreation facilities and programs for area youth.
5. Support of better quality education by the Portsmouth area public schools, with emphasis on good relationships among administration, school personnel, and parents.
6. Support of four year staggered terms for Portsmouth City Council members; salary increases for Council members, and that Portsmouth city Council shall be changed to include an uneven number of council members.

The annual meeting is one of the most important general membership meetings of the year. It gives members an opportunity to direct the future of their League. Holding an annual meeting is in fact one of the seven basic requirements for League recognition. The meeting can also be a time to recruit new members by demonstrating how the League functions. Be sure to display League literature so that invited guests can learn about the League and our positions on issues. This is also a good time to distribute and collect personal interest surveys, and, since this is often the start of a new fiscal year, don't forget to collect dues.

### 2010 CENSUS A VITAL CIVIC COUNT OF ALL AMERICANS

#### **League of Women Voters is 2010 Census National Partner**

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today announced its role as a national partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. The decennial count takes place one year from today.

"The 2010 Census is an enormously important government effort that sets out to count all Americans," said Mary G Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. "The League is joining this effort as a national partner to enable our local, grassroots members to help achieve this goal."

"We join with the U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations in emphasizing the importance of every single resident being counted in the community in which they live," Wilson stated. "Many Americans may not be aware of how important Census data is to almost every aspect of their lives. This data is used as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and to state legislatures. Since Leagues around the country are well-known and trusted sources of civic information, they can play an important role in educating the public that the 2010 Census is important, easy, and fair."

"Our goal is to work with others to eliminate the 'undercount' that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations," said Wilson. "We have been fighting to protect the rights of underrepresented com-

munities in many arenas including voting and elections, and immigration and health care reforms. The Census influences so many public policy decisions, we all must do our part to see that it is as accurate and inclusive as it can be.”

”Officials have worked hard to plan this Census, but they cannot reach into every community without the help of grassroots or-

ganizations like the League,” Wilson said. “It is our hope that thousands of League members nationwide will do our part to make the Census a success, by helping Americans reach a comfort level with the process and a willingness to participate in this important civic process. Our approach to the Census is similar to that of

voting - We want everyone to count!”

For additional information on the 2010 Census go to [www.2010.census.gov/2010census](http://www.2010.census.gov/2010census).



The following proposed budget for the upcoming program year (2009-2010) is being presented by the budget Committee for approval by the membership.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PORTSMOUTH/SCIOTO BRANCH  
BUDGET PROPOSAL**

<b><u>Disbursements:</u></b>	<b><u>2008-2009</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed 2009-2010</u></b>
Administrative/Clerical	\$30.00	\$30.00
Membership promotion	\$ 20.00	\$20.00
Finance Drive Expenses	\$150.00	\$150.00
Conventions and Meetings	\$100.00	\$200.00
Publications - State & National	\$20.00	\$20.00
Publications of Voter	\$50.00	\$100.00
Program Committee	\$150.00	\$200.00
Voters Service	\$1,601.50	\$1,056.00
Facts for Voters	\$350.00	\$200.00
Per Member Payments (24 members)		
National (\$28.00 per member)	\$812.00	\$672.00
State (\$23.50 per member)	<u>\$681.50</u>	<u>\$564.00</u>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$3,965.00</b>	<b>\$3,212.00</b>
<b><u>Income:</u></b>		
Membership Dues (at \$48.00)	\$1,392.00	\$1,152.00
Finance Drive	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
Interest on Savings	\$28.00	\$20.00
Other (Power Pledge)	<u>\$45.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$3,965.00</b>	<b>\$3,212.00</b>

As of March 25th, 2008

Checking Account	\$39.92
Savings Account	<u>\$6,191.51</u>
<b>Total Money</b>	<b>\$6,231.43</b>

**Budget Committee:** Gladys Reynolds, Lou Carter, Sandra Reiser