



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
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VOLUME 86, ISSUE 6

JUNE – 2009

Foreclosure Prevention Fair & Forum

Presented by the LWVGDA
 May 30, 2009
 3 to 6 p.m.

See enclosed yellow insert

Please help support League by
 spreading the word.

OBJECTIVE is to promote an issue that is critical to voters relating to real estate & housing. The event addresses solutions to preventing foreclosure.

LEAGUE POSITION STATEMENTS ON FORECLOSURE TOPIC

The following LWV positions or statements of principle may be used for taking or advocating action on foreclosure.

URBAN POLICY

"The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that it is in the national interest to promote the well being of America's cities."

MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS POLICY

The League has a detailed housing supply position that includes the rights of tenants.

A National League principle states that:

"The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination."

An exciting week

OPEN WORLD PROGRAM for ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

MAY 29—JUNE 6

Municipal Governance / Community Development
 Administered by the League of Women Voters
 Delegates from Azerbaijan

League members are encouraged to participate in these exciting events and meet with the Delegates. The League has worked hard to make this unique opportunity a success.

- June 1, 6:30 p.m.—Pot Luck dinner with the delegates and local League members at Sharon Harmer's Condo Community Room
- June 2, 6:30-8 p.m.—Hithergreen Senior Center, Centerville. A question & answer opportunity.

Call 937-228-4041 for more information

Be part of the example of how Americans help those in need.

Our Azerbaijani guests have expressed a desire to learn more about how social services are provided to citizens through non-governmental organizations. As part of their itinerary we will be spending a day visiting local non profit organizations to learn about their operations. One of those organizations is The Foodbank, which serves as a resource for the many Dayton area food pantries and soup kitchens.

The League office was contacted by a member (who wishes to remain anonymous) who stated she will match any donations made by League members to the Foodbank for presentation at the time of our visit on June 5.

If you would like to make a donation to the Foodbank (which will be matched) please forward that gift to the League office by June 4.

If you are writing a check, please make the check out to The Foodbank and then forward to the League office to be included in the presentation on June 4.

*General Fund***2008- 2009 Leadership
Circle Members****President (\$10,000+)***Dayton Daily News ****Vice President (\$5,000+)***Dayton Daily News***Cabinet (\$2,500+)**

Dickey Fund

Governor (\$1,000+)

Roger B. Himmell, CPA *

Premier Health Partners

Miami Valley Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital

Atrium Medical Center

Upper Valley Medical Center

Time Warner Cable **

Senate (\$500)

Fifth Third Bank

Chuck Fisher*

Kendall Printing*

Montgomery County Board of Elections

United Way of Greater Dayton

Area**

University of Dayton *

Political Science Department

House (\$250)

AAA Miami Valley

Anonymous (2)

Dr. Susan Barde

Dayton Metro Library

Carolyn Farrow-Garland

Five Rivers Metro Park,

Charles Shoemaker, Exec. Director

Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Fletcher

Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assoc.

Gary J. Leppla

Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County

Commissioner, and Dennis Lieberman

McGohan Brabender

Rhine McLin, Mayor, City of Dayton

David Neuhardt

Tom Roberts. State Senator, 5th District

Patricia Schroeder

Judy & Tom Thompson

University of Dayton, Office of the

President

Marie "Penny" Wolff

YSI Incorporated

*In-kind contributions

**In kind and monetary contribution

All elected officials, political entities and candidates are invited to contribute to the LWV. Names appearing on this list do not constitute an endorsement by the LWV which is nonpartisan.

**Recent Contributions
Appreciated**

Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League's General Fund [a 501(c)(4) entity] since our last *Voter*:
*indicates League member

Evelyn Ferguson *

Mary Graves

Jane Schwaiger *

Charles Shoemaker, Exec.
Dir. Five Rivers MetroParks

Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League's Education Fund [a 501(c)(3) entity] since our last *Voter*:

William H. Hagenbuch

Pam Harris

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

Thank you

A special Thank you to the following Kroger Card holders who recently earned \$215.42 for our League's Education Fund by using their Kroger Neighborhood Rewards card!



- Carolyn Bridgman
- Julie Burneson
- Evelyn Ferguson
- Pam Harris
- Sue Hesselgesser
- Al Houston
- Janis James
- Viola Matyas
- Ellen McCloskey
- Virgene Moser
- Lillian Sagstetter
- Peg Schulz
- Judy Thompson
- Carol Winslow
- Penny Wolff

You, too, can help us earn dollars for the Education Fund. Call the League office, 228-4041, to find out how you can earn money for the LWV while you purchase your groceries and prescriptions.

**Education Fund
Current Major
Contributors**

- Charles Berry (\$5,000)
- The Dayton Bar Association
Foundation (\$1,000)
- The Dayton Power & Light
Foundation (\$5,000)
- The Virginia W. Kettering
Foundation (\$5,000)

Greene County Board of Elections - April 28, 2009 - Bea Delph

The Board discussed the on-going state lawsuit with Premier (maker of electronic voting machines). It was noted that only two (2) boards of election statewide are attempting to get out of their contracts with Premier because of the incident involving a memory card in Cuyahoga County. It was also noted that the Greene County Board was included in the lawsuit without being advised. It was also reported that the Secretary of State's office was looking at all 88 county Boards of Elections audits and found only one error.

The Greene County Board certified the Public Logic and Accuracy Test that was conducted recently on Greene County voting equipment. The Greene County Board of Elections Director has been named to an administrative committee that will be looking into the needs of all Boards of Elections. All state Boards of Elections are required to submit an operation plan by August 2.

Montgomery County Board of Elections - April 28, 2009 - Sharon Harmer

The Board of Elections met to do housekeeping details and certify the official results from the Moraine April special election. There was a very low turnout in that city: 13%. Board members received the recommendations from the Secretary of State's office regarding proposed changes in election law. The state association of BOE's supports the recommendations overall, taking no positions on individual components of the proposal.

In comments from the Director and Deputy Director, it was noted that the County Commission has requested an additional 2 ½ % reduction of the budget; this is likely to be a permanent cut in funding. There will be 131 students working the polls at the Primaries from Kids Voting. Since only 40% of the polls will be open, this is all that was requested. Nicky Barnhill will be replacing Dale Henry as the Secretary of State's representative to the Montgomery County BOE.

Kettering City Council - May 12, 2009 - Mickey Gogle

Council recognized local youth group for its assistance to an elderly Kettering resident with home maintenance. It was reported that several local groups are collaborating to provide food on weekends to area children who would otherwise go hungry. It was noted that May 10-16 is Police Memorial Week.

Washington Township - May 4 & 18, 2009 - Lucy Ann McKosky

Observer reported that routine business was conducted at this meeting. During the resident comment portion of the meeting there were concerns expressed about damage from stormwater runoff, local traffic problems and the growing deer and geese populations. A suggestion was made to appoint a citizen advocate to explain procedures and requirements to citizens and to help residents through the interactions with township government. Observer noted that this idea was interesting and would continue follow up for any progress on this idea.

Centerville and Washington Township have been working on a joint disaster plan and have strengthened their plans for sheltering residents in case of a natural disaster.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The *Voter* is published monthly, except July, August and December by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA), Talbott Tower, Suite 1208, 131 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45401-1703. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Phone (937) 228-4041 and (937) 372-4148; FAX: (937) 228-4104;

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President: Sharon Harmer. Editorial Board: Vivienne Himmell, Sharon Harmer, Penny Wolff

Editor: Viola Matyas

Regionalism: Expanding Our Backyard

At the recent State Convention, LWV Cuyahoga Area presented a workshop on regionalism, namely the idea that cities, towns, and other local governments in a region can collaborate in order to share resources and to improve efficiency. A privately funded grassroots visioning activity in Northeast Ohio had identified four key areas that should be addressed to promote regional economic development, one being government efficiency and collaboration. LWVCA saw an opportunity to contribute in this area, and undertook a two-year local study to examine the issue.

The study developed a two-part position that addresses (a) regionalism in general, and (b) a specific realization of regionalism in response to local economic concerns in the Northeast Ohio region. Part (a) supports "voluntary intergovernmental collaborative agreements which reduce costs, foster transparency and accountability, improve efficiencies, and maintain service standards". Such agreements may be formed at the local, county, or regional level; should be practical in size and scope, and should reflect the interconnectedness of the communities involved.

Part (b) addresses a 16-county region of Northeast Ohio, and supports regional tax-base sharing as a way to address economic ups and downs by spreading both wealth and hardship across a potentially broad spectrum of cities, towns, and townships. The idea is that this will encourage everyone to help grow the whole pie rather than to fight over it, and will present a united front to industry and developers who often try to pit adjacent communities against each other to get tax breaks and other incentives. This is similar to the arrangement that let some communities in Montgomery County share the burden of auto plant closures (one of the examples looked at by the LWVCA study), although the Northeast Ohio agreement would share new income rather than financial loss.

Under the new regionalism position, LWVCA can urge a local community to enter a collaborative agreement with other local governments, or conversely to decline if the agreement is not sound and beneficial; and can provide community education on the specific agreement as well as on the broader issue. Since legal hurdles exist to at least some types of regional collaboration, a longer-term objective is to lobby the State Legislature to remove these hurdles and instead to encourage such arrangements.

LWVCA initially approached the local Leagues in Northeast Ohio communities that would be affected by the proposed tax-base sharing agreement, but took the opportunity through the State Convention workshop to promote the basic idea of regionalism to Leagues across the state. At least two local Leagues are considering adopting a similar position through concurrence processes, and LWVCA members have offered to provide background material or even a speaker to any League that would like more information.

Three Birds with One Stone: PMP Rates and the Internet

After a surprisingly lengthy and heated debate, LWVO State Convention approved a PMP increase in each of the next two years of a hefty \$0.75. Many on the "con" side took issue more with the direction than the magnitude of the increase, saying that no increase is appropriate in the current economic hard times. Increases in operating expenses were cited as justification for the increase. This and other business played out over an undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the low number of League members who communicate by email and get information online.

The LWVGDA delegation drafted Direction to the Board asking that they investigate the feasibility, costs, and benefits of giving a PMP discount to local Leagues who have more than a certain percentage, say 70%, of their members receiving State League materials entirely online. This will reduce paper, printing, and postage costs for LWVO, and will provide a financial incentive for local Leagues (and their members) to get more of their members online. If the proposal is adopted, it would provide some small PMP relief to participating Leagues; give a meaningful boost to online communication within League; and reduce paper use as well.

In general, Friday we had things presented, discussed Saturday and voted on Sunday. Meetings went from 8 am through 10:30 p.m. Workshops were provided at various points throughout the day.



Pertinent decisions made include:

1. an increase in PMP to \$20.25 for the 09-10 year and \$25 for the 10-22 year. Currently, \$28 goes to LWVUS;
2. one update and one consensus coming (probably 2010): completion of the Taxation and Finance study and an update on Education Finance;
3. New board members were elected. Sally Mier and Teana Nicol from Dayton are on the board;
4. Action resolutions on environment, education and financing were passed;
5. Dayton members attended workshops on coalitions, healthcare reform, communication/technology, regionalism, judiciary, the Voter, leadership, observers/FOIA audits, juvenile justice and the budget.

LWVO Convention Delegates Pass Action Resolutions on Key Subjects

The LWVO Convention Delegates passed nine Action Resolutions covering the following topics:

1. **Redistricting** The current methods of drawing districts for Congressional seats and for Ohio House and Senate seats result in one political party controlling the processes, to the detriment of the other political party and to the detriment of the citizens of Ohio.
2. **Election Administration.** First, to assure fair and honest elections; and second, to assure transparency in the election process.
3. **Energy Conservation** It is time citizens act together to insure energy conservation becomes an integral part of civic planning.
4. **Income Tax** To ensure adequate social, human, and government services for the citizens of Ohio, state income taxes should be restored to 2005 level.
5. **Cleveland Port Authority** All levels of government should share in the responsibility for providing open and transparent decision making.
6. **Improving Charter School Accountability** Public funds should only be used for public schools that are accountable and responsive to tax payers.
7. **Public Funds for Public Schools** Direct state funds to support public schools. Eliminate Cleveland, Ed. Choice, & Autism Scholarship programs.
8. **Oppose SB6 Special Education Scholarship Program/Voucher** Public funds should be for public schools only.
9. **Urge Governor and lawmakers to continue efforts to reform Ohio's School Funding System.**

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www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter
Education and
Action on Issues

President's Message

Wow! What a close to the year! We are having two exciting things going on the end of May which should be of interest to many of our members.

First of all, we have the Foreclosure Fair on Saturday, May 30th. This is an informational program for all League members. It is also for all those who might have clients, co-workers or friends who might be facing possible mortgage problems. Please invite your friends and coworkers to this

very informative event. We are having representatives from a number of entities who deal specifically with the problem, including someone from the state of Ohio. Do come!

Secondly, we have a group of visitors from Azerbaijan visiting the area from May 29th through June 6th. They are visiting governments, social service organizations, community organizations, colleges, foundations, historical areas and even going to a Dragons

game! Take note of those events where you can talk to them. It should be a very interesting time. The Dayton community has been very forthcoming in providing the Azeris a visit to be remembered.

It has been a privilege serving as your President. Not only have I learned a great deal but have enjoyed working with a group of people who are truly interested in their community as well as the world at large.

Sharon