

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA  
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JANUARY—2008

**The End  
is Coming...**

It's hard to believe, but 2007 is coming to a close. As we turn those calendar pages and get serious about getting all our contribution receipts in that shoebox for the IRS, why not consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Greater Dayton Area League of Women Voters Education Fund. And, while you are in the mode of thinking about official documents, have you considered a designation the League as a recipient in your will or trust?

**Voice Your Opinion  
Attend January Program Planning Meeting**

**Having a voice. Speaking your mind. Isn't that what the League encourages all citizens to do through our vote and community participation?** Yes, it is.

Don't our historical roots go back to the concept that all people ought to have a say in their government? Yes, it does.

At our January Program Planning meeting you will have the opportunity to discuss and give voice to your opinions on national League positions. Program planning is your chance to be a part of a long-standing tradition of grassroots decision-making. And we'll have some fun too!

**Join us on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at The Dayton Art Institute at 9 a.m.** for a thought-provoking and engaging meeting to review and make recommendations on LWVUS positions as well as to discuss local program planning. This is your time to speak out on changes to positions or future topics you believe League should be working on both at the national and local levels.

Stimulating conversation, great locale, followed by a fabulous buffet lunch and catching up with friends is a must do for the dreary days of January! Please plan to join us for the meeting and to break bread together. A reservation form with details is included at the bottom of this page. Program planning materials are included in the newsletter. More information is available on the League's national positions by consulting the LWVUS *Impact on Issues 2006-2008* available through the League office.

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Study materials for January Program Planning meeting are on yellow insert page.

**PROGRAM PLANNING RESERVATION FORM**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation for meeting and lunch:

\$15 enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Meeting ONLY: \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

I will pay at the door \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send reservation form and payment to:**

League of Women Voters  
 131 N. Ludlow Street, Suite 1208, Dayton, OH 45402  
 or call 228-4041.

**Deadline date for reservations is Monday, January 14 2008**

Those who make reservations and do not attend will be billed.

*General Fund***2007- 2008 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

Good Samaritan Hospital

Miami Valley Hospital

Time Warner Cable

**Senate (\$500)**

Beau Townsend

Chuck Fisher\*

Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assoc.

Kendall Printing\*

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Sebaly Shillito + Dyer \*\*

University of Dayton \*\*

President's Office

Fitz Center for Leadership in the

Community

United Way of Greater Dayton Area \*\*

**House (\$250)**

AAA Miami Valley

Anonymous (2)

Dayton Metro Library

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald L. Fletcher

Gary J. Leppla

Debbie Lieberman, Montgomery County

Commissioner, and Dennis Lieberman

McGohan Brabender

Rhine McLin, Mayor, City of Dayton

David A. Neuhardt

Patricia Schroeder

Sheet Metal Workers, Local 24

Sinclair Community College \*\*

Fred Strahorn, State Representative, 40th  
District

Judy &amp; Tom Thompson

Penny Wolff

\*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***Membership  
Updates**

Please welcome the newest  
League members who have  
joined in the past month.

Teresa A. Guerra

ADDRESS CHANGE

Cynthia Treiber

**Great Gift Idea****Kroger Neighborhood  
Rewards (KNR) Program**

Give a gift with double the giving  
power. Kroger gift cards are  
always the right color, and size.  
They are appropriate for almost  
everyone from your college  
student to your parents. They are  
great stocking stuffers and perfect  
for teachers, baby sitters, and  
anyone else to whom you want to  
say thanks for a job well done.

And remember, every time they  
are used, our League's Education  
Fund will benefit. How much  
more perfect can a gift be?

**Call the League office and  
order a Kroger Gift Card today!***Education Fund***Current Major Contributors**

Charles Berry (\$5,000)  
The Dayton Bar Association  
Foundation (\$2,500)  
The Dayton Power & Light  
Foundation (\$5,000)  
The Virginia W. Kettering  
Foundation (\$5,000)

**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

John &amp; Paula Ewers

Karl Keith

Ted &amp; Alice Randall \*

Sheet Metal Worker Local 24

Brenda Whitney \*

Roland Winburn

**The following individuals  
made donations in memory of  
Marian Simmons**

Carolyn Bridgman

Joe and Jean Flor

Sharon Harmer

Carol Winslow

Gavin Pitner

Eileen Rehg

(in memory of both Julie  
Thriftshouser and Marian  
Simmons)

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

Charlene Bayless

Jack H. Heck

Houser Inc.

Suzanne P. Hudson

International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers Local 82

Edythe M. Lewis

Beverly H. Smith

Francis J. Winslow

Xenia Foundry &amp; Machine Co.

## OBSERVER REPORTS

### **Montgomery County Board of Elections - 11-20-07 - Sharon Harmer**

The Board certified all results of the November 6, 2007 General Election. Three races will require a recount (less than ½ % difference in votes) they are: Huber Heights School Board levy, Northridge School Board race, and Miami Township Fiscal Officer. More than 1,400 provisional ballots were cast in the General Election of which more than 300 were invalid. Individuals wishing to verify that their ballot was counted can call in to the BOE up to 30 days following the election. There was no significant increase in the number of people voting by absentee ballot.

Kids Voting supplied approximately 300 students and there were approximately 150 County employees who worked at the polls for this election. Both groups are to be commended for their efforts. There were 2 official complaints regarding campaign practices; one was referred to the sheriff's office for investigation and another had a written response from the BOE to the concern. The Board discussed a directive from the Ohio Secretary of State regarding use of optical scanning for ballots ripped or torn.

### **Yellow Springs Council - 11-5-07 - Sally Mier**

The Council approved a contract to purchase electricity from the Prairie States Power Plant (located in southern Illinois). This contract will replace the current contract the city holds that is due to expire in 5 years. The Prairie State Power Plant is currently under construction and when completed will meet current requirements for clean coal burning in the production of electricity. The Council also approved a contract for purchasing hydroelectric service beginning in the year 2012.

### **Centerville Council - 10-15-07 - Viola Matyas**

A presentation on the Human Service Levy was made requesting council endorsement. It is against council policy to endorse any issue; however a large number of council members spoke as individuals in support of the levy. A number of community ordinances will have public hearings in November one of which will define what item cannot be in a residential front yard. The city planning commission recommended that the council prohibit new signs that include an LED moving message. The council voted to discuss this recommendation with the business community before taking a final vote.

### **Kettering Council - 10-23-07 - Mickey Gogle**

The council voted to endorse the Kettering City School levy. The council authorized the city manager to enter into agreements for expansion of the fiber communication system and to also work with the Homeownership Center of Greater Dayton to assist first time home buyers in Kettering.

### **Looking for a few good volunteer observers.....especially in Kettering !**

Interested in becoming a member of the League's Observer Corps ? There are many local government meetings that the League currently does not have a representative attending. We are especially looking for someone to take over observing the Kettering City Council meetings. We have many League members who are Kettering residents, wouldn't you like to be part of learning first hand how your city government operates and makes decisions? Contact Joyce Fisher at [jcfisher@woh.rr.com](mailto:jcfisher@woh.rr.com) or call the League office for more information.

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

**Beavercreek Township Trustees - 10-22-07 - Rebecca Jarvi**

A presentation by Pickrell, Schaeffer and Ebling discussed the issues of drainage, access roads, flooding and retention ponds on Factory Road property being developed as the Beavercreek Business Campus.

Trustee Robert Glaser made the motion that all Trustee meeting agendas be submitted to the Township Fiscal Officer and posted on the Township website by the close of business on the Friday preceding each Township Trustee meeting. Discussion concurred that this would improve communication with the community. The motion passed.

Fire Chief Thomas reported on the architect's visit to Fire Stations #62 and #64 stating that needed repairs would not be easy to implement. The Department is hopeful about receiving a safety grant from the State.

A request for a bike path along Factory Road was denied because the Township does not have easement or right-of-way along this road. There is on-going discussion with AT&T's request for an exclusive communication easement in the area of the Beavercreek Library. The township owns the property but the adjacent road belongs to the City of Beavercreek.

**11-19-07**

A Beavercreek resident requested that Township meeting be broadcast on the local cable television station and also requested that meeting agendas be published on the Township website by the Friday preceding the meeting. A new procedure has been put in place to assure that meeting agendas are available on the Township website and should be standard procedure in several weeks. Trustee Graff commented that regardless of the claim of one individual, Board of Trustee meetings are open to the public and no person has been barred from any Township Trustee meeting or the Township facility.

A motion was made to require that overtime pay in excess of twenty hours (excluding emergency response time) must be approved by two Trustees. There was no second to the motion.

There was discussion about the mutual benefit of the Township Fire Department housing the Miami Valley Alliance equipment. It was mentioned that the Alliance provides nationally certified testing and that a large number of the pool of part time fire fighters come from the Alliance. There is a cost to make roof repairs to the space being considered for use by the Alliance.

There was discussion about reported overpayment to a Beavercreek Township fire fighter. A request for repayment and issuance of a re-adjusted tax statement will be issued to the person in question in order to file a corrected tax return. Discussion also covered recent changes put in place for fire department time cards, and the township changing to a different payroll vendor.

**Greene County Board of Elections - 11-26-07 Bea Delph**

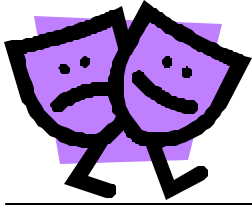
The Greene County Board of Elections in Greene County met to certify the election of November 6. Because the race for the Xenia City Council between John Caupp and Michael Engle was so close, (1664 to 1635 votes), a mandatory recount has to be done. Ohio law requires that a recount be done in any race if the margin is less than one half of one percent.

The Director reported that expenses for election day were \$79,000. He also said that they had had 397 provisional ballots cast on election day. They encountered a problem with the three creases in the absentee ballots. Because of the creases, the count was slowed down.

The Board discussed briefly the organization of the county board. Biennially, within five days after the appointments to the Board of Elections are made by the Secretary of State, the members of the board meet to select one of their members as chairperson. In turn, they also have to select a resident elector of the county as director and also a deputy director. The director and deputy director have to be of opposite political parties. The chairperson has to be selected from members of the board that are from politics opposite to the director's. When the process is completed, it has to be reported to the Secretary of State. The Board also discussed and adopted a comp time policy for employees.

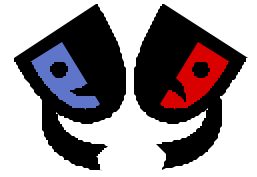
**Report on Special Conditions:**

The counting of ballots was being done in the same room as the Board of Elections meeting and it was difficult to hear what was being said. At one point, one of the employees feeding the machines interjected her opinion. I don't think that should have been allowed.



## A Night at the Theatre

Dayton Theatre Guild Offers Fund Raising Opportunity  
*Volunteers Needed*



This coming March, The Dayton Theatre Guild will present "The Best Man" by Gore Vidal. The play focuses on two men competing for their party's nomination. Although it's set in 1960 it feels very current because many of the same questions concerning morality and politics are raised. What will strike you most is how little things have changed in the last 40-plus years. Political mudslinging as a valid tactic during a heated campaign (to sling or not to sling, that is the question) is very much in the forefront.

The show opens on February 29, the week before the Ohio presidential primary election and runs through March 15. The League has been given the opportunity to "have the house" for the 8:30 p.m. performance on Saturday, March 15. (The Ides of March, a notable date in political history!)

The League's responsibility is to sell all the tickets for this performance, keeping the proceeds for our efforts. This is a great opportunity to get involved in a short term project that will be fun and profitable. In addition to raising money, this will also give the League an opportunity to raise awareness about the League, its mission and its service to the community.

Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets, provide refreshments for intermission, and help with ideas for providing information about the League to the audience.

Monica Schultz has agreed to chair this event. She is seeking volunteers to serve on the committee. You can share your interest and ideas about this fun opportunity by contacting Monica at ammewsing@gmail.com or calling her at 248-4480.

## Could You Pass the Test?

Beginning October 1, 2008, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin implementation of a redesigned naturalization test. In the next few issues of the *Voter* we will present sample questions to see how our own knowledge compares to what is expected of those who wish to become citizens.

### *Sample Questions:*

What is the rule of law?

We elect a US Senators for how many years?

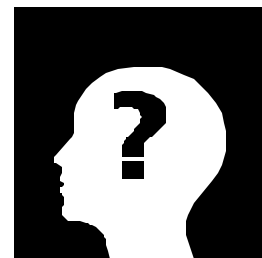
What is one power of the federal government?

What is one power of the states?

Name one writer of the *Federalist Papers*.

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

What is the supreme law of the land?



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.-3:00 p.m. Phone (937) 228-4041 and (937) 372-4148; FAX: (937) 228-4104;

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Advocating Voter  
Education and  
Action on Issues

## President's Message

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To all of you who participated in the immigration consensus, thank you! Even with a variety of units meeting, there was a surprisingly consistent response to many of the questions. Those attending were pleased with the discussions and very interested in the topic. Our results will be sent to the LWVUS where they will be compiled and presented to delegates at the convention in June for a possible position statement under which we can act.

While we will have a brief hiatus from League activities in December, we will start up again in **January** with a program planning meeting at the Dayton Art Institute. That will form the basis for our recommendations to national as well as ideas for our own programs which are voted on in May. LWVUS is planning a Primary election guide to come out in this month also. In **February**, we will have a program on predatory lending.

This is a topic which is affecting all communities and all income levels. ARM's (Adjusted Rate Mortgages) are affecting a wide variety of people as well as the value of homes in the area. Government efforts to contact people before they are threatened by foreclosure have been unsuccessful (e.g. Montgomery County, Cuyahoga County). Housing counselors are overwhelmed and are having trouble handling the caseload. It is not only individual homeowners who are being affected, but rentals and commercial real estate as well. We had a program on this about 7 years ago and it continues to deserve our attention.

In **March**, we will look at election reform by having a Town Hall meeting. The meeting will be after the primaries and should be something that people have definite opinions on! We are also looking at a fundraiser with the Dayton Theatre Guild that month.

In **April**, we will look at environmental issues. We plan to meet at a "green" building so that we can see what things are incorporated into such planning. Statehouse Day will also be held this month..

**May** brings our Annual Meeting at Bergamo. That is when we decide what we will be doing for the next year as well as electing board members. And in **June** there will be a LWVUS convention in Portland and LWVO Council in Columbus. Now, this does not include other activities such as a campaign for absentee registrations, registering 17 year olds for the primaries and general elections, publishing the DPO (Directory of Public Officials), membership and fundraising campaigns, observing, publication updating, etc. We won't let you become bored!

*Sharon*