



Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters of Oxford reaffirms our commitment to diversity and pluralism which means that there are and shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

The Oxford Voter

February, 2020

Important Dates for LWVOx Activities

Tuesday, February 4 7:30 p.m. 118 W. High St. (Courthouse) **City Council Proclamation** honoring the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters.

Wednesday, February 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m., game room, Knolls of Oxford, Commons building
Open Board Meeting

Tuesday February 18 until 9 p.m. **Registration deadline to vote in the primary**

Wednesday, February 19, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Lane Library Children's Meeting Room 1st Floor. **Brown Bag Lunch** General Topic: **Controlling Gun Violence** Speaker: Neil Moore who is supporting the movement to get a ballot initiative on Universal Background checks in Ohio.

Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m. game room, Knolls of Oxford, Commons building
Open Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 11 7:30-9:00 p.m. Presbyterian Seminary Building, 104 E. Church St.
Public Meeting- The 2020 Census Update

Wednesday through Saturday, March 11-14 **Miami Symposium on Women's Empowerment and the Right to Vote**, events on campus on Friday, on Saturday at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Details of actual time and place of these events will be updated as they are received.

Tuesday, March 17, Primary Election Day Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. game room Knolls of Oxford, Commons building
Open Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Presbyterian Seminary Building, 104 E. Church St.

LWVOx Local Convention and Celebration



2020 is a Momentous Year!

By Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization

2020 is a momentous year for our nation, especially for the women of this nation, who won the right to vote 100 years ago! This is our centennial year, in which we celebrate that victory of women, by women, and for women (with the help of some stalwart male allies). On August 26, we will commemorate, big-time, this victory, with an all-afternoon and evening Community-wide Celebration—historic enactments in uptown parks, theatrical cameos, and Suffragist garb followed by a rousing (maybe a little rowdy?) parade on High St. to the Oxford Community Arts Center, where exhibits, musical and dramatic performances, and festive food and drink will beckon people of all ages, backgrounds, and political viewpoints. We hope that all members of the League of Women Voters of Oxford (LWVOx) will join our entire community to celebrate this victory, which changed the world forever— women seizing their rightful place as voting citizens of a still-evolving nation.

2020 is also a momentous year because it marks the founding, 100 years ago on February 14, of the League of Women Voters of the United States! Our League founders, fresh (or exhausted but still on-task, of course!) from the long suffrage fight, recognized that we women, who were now voting for the first time, intended to be educated voters, and that the League could help ensure that fact AND protect our hard-won, new right to vote!

2020 is also a momentous year because it is a Presidential election year— a contentious and serious Presidential election year. Your League will be out in force, registering voters, providing absentee ballot applications, and conducting voter education programs in schools, community organizations, and at public gatherings and festivals. There are so many ways and opportunities for LWVOx members to participate in these events!

2020 is also a momentous year because Miami University, in its Global Sisterhood Symposium, and in partnership with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, is featuring a five-day visit by Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, who was the 15th President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and the only African-American to hold that nationwide position. She will be speaking here in Oxford and at the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, at various times during that Symposium, March 11-15. Her soon-to-be-released book, “The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters,” has captured the interest of the Board of our LWVOx, as we undertake a deep exploration of the powerful, but largely discounted, roles and sacrifices of African-American women in the Suffrage Movement. We will share details soon about how we all can meet and talk with Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins.

2020 is also a momentous year because the US Census, taken every ten years, is happening this year. Its collected data will become the basis for the number of Congressional seats in Ohio, and the redrawn Districting maps that define those Congressional seats. Federal Funds to communities are also allocated based on this 2020 Census data. Momentous implications abound! We are holding a public meeting on the topic of the US Census on Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 pm, at the Presbyterian Seminary Building. Come and learn more!

2020 is also a momentous year because there is so much each of us can, and should, do this year! Remember to vote in the Ohio primary election on Tuesday, March 17. Remember, as well, that the last day to register to vote in the primary is February 18. Stay active in our LWVOx, because voting is a profound right and responsibility, and the LWVOx provides such a crucial, local, voice for voting rights, voter education, and American democracy!

Finally, get more involved in the workings of your LWVOx! The Board has recently changed the time of our Board Meetings from morning to evening, so that more of our leaders are able to attend. Our Board Meetings are open to all members, and we welcome your participation by joining us on the first Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm, in the game room at the Commons building at the Knolls of Oxford. I think you will enjoy the discussion, decision-making, and camaraderie of these meetings. Maybe you will become encouraged to take on leadership roles in your League, yourself! Also, plan to attend our Annual Local Convention, taking place on Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 pm, at the Presbyterian Seminary Building. In addition to conducting elections of officers and other formal business, we intend to celebrate our right to vote, remember the Suffragists of a multitude of backgrounds, and enjoy the friendships among the wonderful members of our powerful nonpartisan organization! We are, indeed, Making Democracy Work!



Voter Services Update

By Prue Dana, Co-President for Voter Services

There will be a Primary in Ohio March 17, 2020! Because it is St. Patrick's Day and people have other celebrations going on, please encourage anyone who is able to VOTE EARLY. This is very important to the student friends in our community.

Please check out these 2 websites for the latest and the correct information.

1. Butler County Board of Elections <https://Butlercountyelections.org>
2. <https://www.vote411.org>.

(You will note that the 411 people are just in the process of loading the information.)

If you would like a **human voice at the Butler County Board of Elections, call 513-887-3700**. The workers there are very patient.

You will find out how to register, how to verify your information for voting, and how, when and where to vote. Knowing this will not only help you, but you can become a source of information to your friends and family.

We have Voter Registration Forms (located at Lane Library and the City building), a voting 1-2-3- information form, and applications for "Absentee" or "early voting" forms.

Dates to remember:

February 18 until 9 p.m. Registration deadline to vote in the primary

February 19 The first day you can vote early

March 17 6:30 a.m to 7:30 p.m. Primary election

We have so much information. Please let me know if you are going to an event and would like a Voters Packet. They will be on my back porch off S. College Ave.

The Government Services Directory 2020 is on the way.

Thank you to Traci Wilson for pulling it all together. There will be a big folding and distribution job - let me know if you can assist.

To contact Prue Dana, call or text 513-461-3404.



Seeking Individuals for Leadership Positions

We have a strong and highly capable slate of nominees lined up for the election of officers and other leadership positions, which will take place at our LWVOx Local Convention, April 22, 2020. However, two very important positions still need candidates, as follows:

Chair of the Nominating Committee

Please CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING for this crucial position, especially if you are a LWVOx member who is familiar with many other members, people whom your Nominating Committee can approach for various leadership positions. The Nominating Committee normally works intensively for only two to three months, so the responsibilities, while central to the organization, are not constant or overburdening throughout the year.

If you have interest in helping our League in this substantive way, please contact me. Your LWVOx truly needs your skills and talents in this position!

Sibyl Harris Miller, Co-President for Organization
513-255-2052

Social Media Coordinator

Facebook has been a very effective way of communicating with the public. Through this platform, we are able to promote our events, push Action Items, and post articles providing background on issues and initiatives that are important to us. We have even been successful at getting a volunteer to fill an "open slot" at a voter registration table on short notice. We are seeking a coordinator for the 2020-2022 term. I did not find the Facebook Coordinator role to be time-intensive, but I did enjoy previewing articles or writing up little tidbits for voters. We also have the ability to expand to other Social Media platforms, if we had a coordinator interested in taking our League in that direction.

If you have interest in knowing more about the position, please contact me, Jenny Fisher, the current coordinator, at jennyfisher156@gmail.com . If you would like to volunteer to fill the position, please contact Kathie Brinkman, Communication Director, at brinkmkb@miamioh.edu



Membership Update

By Kathy McMahan-Klosterman, Membership Director with Marsha Williamson

The Oxford League of Women Voters has been busy this fall. Most recently, Professor Kimberly Hamblin shared a fascinating and informative presentation on the history of women's suffrage. We had over seventy-five people in attendance. These wonderful events are an opportunity for the community to participate in League activity and consider joining us.

Our present dues paying membership is approaching one hundred. We are fortunate to have eight (8) LIFETIME members who bring their wisdom and commitment to Oxford. We generally have additional renewals throughout the year as well, so our membership may grow yet. As a reminder, our year is from July 1 to June 30th.

The national office transitioned to a new computer system this year which is more efficient to use but has presented a learning curve as well. Marsha Williamson has stepped up to volunteer in helping with membership. She has been an invaluable resource. I wish to thank her publicly for all her efforts and hours of work. Our final membership number was sent to the national office on January 31st.

Importantly, the newly updated and redesigned Oxford LWV website has the option of paying dues with PayPal. This is a significant improvement since many young people are accustomed to paying in this manner. We are hopeful this will encourage new and younger members to join.

Please consider gifting a membership for someone you care about. Membership could be a graduation gift for a grandchild, a birthday present for a sibling or thoughtful gesture for a friend. The LWV provides facts on researched positions so that voters are able to make informed decisions. The more information we have, the better our decisions are likely to be. This makes Democracy work! Thank you for your commitment to the LWV.



Historical Perspectives Will be Posted on Facebook

By Jenny Fisher, Facebook Administrator

Our Centennial year is upon us. Later this month, the League of Women Voters will be 100 years old! While we prepare to have a big celebration this summer, some of us feel like we need to brush up on our history. Was 70 years of the suffrage movement crammed into a short unit in your high school history class? Can a 5-minute YouTube video capture the complexities of the movement? We highly encourage you to read a book on the topic and the LWV-Ohio has even provided a book list.

With that said, many of our Facebook followers might not get that far. We are going to share information on Facebook about different aspects of the suffrage movement and shine light on those who impacted it. We will share profiles of the most famous suffragists as well as the lesser-known. We hope to highlight women and men of different races and backgrounds. Behind the movement was a kaleidoscope of personalities and it was their organizing and grass root efforts, sometimes parallel movements by different populations, that led them to succeed. But even knowing that, we still cringe when we hear certain stories or quotes. There were elements of racism, classism, anti-immigrant sentiment, eastern versus western states, etc. Considering these different elements will help us to understand our own history. We would like to share different viewpoints on Facebook and we'll label it #HistoricalPerspectives

As you come across interesting articles or profiles, please share them with me!

jennyfisher156@gmail.com I have already identified the issue that lesser-known suffragists don't have websites dedicated to them. In implementing this series we've decided to relax our normal policies in vetting articles (i.e. balanced approach, using articles from highly respected newspapers, etc.). Surely this will be a challenge, but let's still try and see how far we get.



Centennial Celebration

By Kathie Brinkman, Communication Director

2020 is a year of celebration! On February 14, 1920, in anticipation of passage of the 19th amendment, the League of Women Voters was formed. There are now 700+ chapters in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as the US Virgin Islands and Hong Kong (Who knew! Apparently the role of the Hong Kong chapter is to help US residents register to vote and stay informed). On February 4, Oxford's mayor will read a proclamation honoring the league of Women Voters and the celebration of our founding.

Then, on to the centennial celebration that will take place on August 26, 2020. This event is a celebration of the 100 year anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment. Thirty-six states were required to ratify the 19th amendment in order for it to become law; Tennessee was the 36th to pass it (by one vote!) on August 18, 1920. On August 26, 1920, the U.S. Secretary of State signed the proclamation granting women the right to vote. That date is now celebrated as Women's Equality Day. A fitting day for our celebration.

The Oxford centennial committee is led by Jo McQueen; she has spent several years thinking about how to celebrate this event. She is joined by Kathy McMahon-Klosterman, Toni Saldivar and Linda Simmons in heading up the large group that is planning this event. The full committee has grown to about 20 individuals from across the community. If you're interested in assisting, please come to our next meeting on Thursday, February 13th at 1PM in the 2nd floor conference room at Lane Public Library. You are very welcome to join us.

Final details are being worked out, but high level details include:

- The celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Uptown Park with music and a historical reenactment
- By 6:15 p.m. we'll form a parade and march to OCAC where we'll be greeted on the porch by historical figures and a mayor's proclamation and other fun details
- Once inside, there will be food and drinks for everyone and a children's /exhibit art show, followed by a special program

Who is invited? Everyone! Women, children, men - anyone who wishes to celebrate with us. You can come dressed in historical clothes or wear white or wear whatever you choose - there are no requirements for dress. You can come for part of the celebration or all of it - you choose.

More information will be communicated on all the details - for now, put the date on your calendar and plan to attend!



The Oxford Community Arts Center's Family Performance Series includes a free performance titled "Harriet Tubman" on February 24th at 7 pm in the Ballroom. The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati will be performing an ode to Harriet, a suffragist, in addition to all of her other amazing accomplishments!



2020 Census Update

By Kathie Brinkman, Communication Director

A lot has happened since we held a public meeting on the 2020 census last January! The meeting's purpose was to inform the public about the census and get buy-in from local organizations to form a Complete Count Committee (CCC) for our city. The CCC brings organizations together from across the area to ensure that residents are well informed and will be counted in the census.

In addition to the critical House of Representatives apportionment that is based on the census count, census data is used in decision making for distribution of \$600+ billion in federal funding to the states for housing, highways, hospitals, schools and a number of other programs. Thus, getting a complete count is critical. The City of Oxford is leading the CCC, with representation from numerous local

organizations including LWV, Miami University, Lane Libraries, NAACP, Senior Center, Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services, and many other organizations in our area.

Here's what you can expect:

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| mid - end March 2020 | Census packets mailed to each US residence describing how to respond: online, phone or mail |
| March 30 - April 1 | Census workers go to shelters, food kitchens, etc. to count people experiencing homelessness |
| April 1 | Official census kickoff - every household should respond to the census within the next 30 day |
| April | Census workers will visit on-campus residence halls, senior centers and other group settings to obtain accurate counts |
| May - July | Census workers begin visiting any household that hasn't responded |
| March 31, 2021 | Redistricting counts are sent to each state |

In addition to the customary issue of certain populations being undercounted in the census (children under 4 years of age, Native Americans who live on reservations, Black and Hispanic populations), Oxford has a large international population and residents who travel for various reasons. The Census Bureau's goal is to "count everyone once, only once, and in the right place."

Test your knowledge of some situations:

1. Should college students living in Oxford on April 1 be counted in Oxford or at their home (parent's) address?
2. Should international students living in Oxford on April 1 be counted?
3. Should US students who are studying abroad on April 1 be counted?
4. Should US residents who maintain a home in Oxford but are traveling out of the country on April 1 be counted?
5. Should residents of another country who are visiting your home on April 1 be counted?
6. Should Ohio residents who spend an equal amount of time in Ohio and another state be counted in Ohio or the other state?
7. Where should children in shared custody be counted?

Answers:

1. College students living in Oxford should be counted at their Oxford address and should not be included in the count that their parents complete at their home address.
2. Yes - international students living in Oxford on April 1 should be counted at their Oxford residence. One doesn't have to be a US citizen to be counted.
3. US students studying abroad on April 1 should be counted in Oxford IF THEY HAVE A LEASE IN OXFORD THAT THEY HAVEN'T SUBLET. Otherwise, they are not counted at any location in the US because they are living overseas.
4. US citizens who are out of the country due to vacation or business travel on April 1 should be counted at their home residence.
5. No, residents of other countries who are visiting your home on vacation or business on April 1 should not be counted.
6. People who equally split their time between a home in Ohio and a home in another state should complete the census using the address where they reside on April 1, the official census date.

Anyone who spends more time in Ohio than another state should use their Oxford address on the census because that is their “usual residence”.

7. Children in shared custody should be counted where they spend most of their time. If the shared custody is equal, they should be counted where they are staying on April 1.

If you have questions about where you should be counted, review the information at:

https://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2010/resid_rules/resid_rules.html#EIGHT

In the next few months you’ll see lots of information on the census on tv, around Oxford and in the news.

Join us on March 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Oxford Presbyterian Seminary Building (104 E. Church St.) for our final program on the census. Members of the Complete Count Committee will detail how they are working to ensure that everyone in Oxford is properly counted.