



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

September, 2019

Dates to Note

Wednesday, September 18, 7:30 pm—9 pm, Public Program and Membership Meeting: “From Start to Finish: How Your Ballot Is Made and Counted,” Eric Corbin, Butler County Board of Elections, at the Knolls of Oxford Commons, Contreras Rd.

Friday, September 20, at Unidiversity Festival uptown, 5:30–Voter Registration with partners from NAACP Oxford Unit

Tuesday, September 24, National Voter Registration Day—Voter Registration in front of Oxford Police Department Building in afternoon, E. High St.

Wednesday, September 25, 7 pm, Cincinnati Children’s Theater production of “The Suffragettes,” a play for children and families sponsored in part by the LWVOx, in the Ballroom at Oxford Community Arts Center, corner of W. High St. and S. College Ave.

Wednesday, October 2, 10:30-12:15, LWVOx Open Board Meeting, Holy Trinity Church, main floor board room

Wednesday, October 16, 7-9 pm, Candidates’ Forum, The Knolls Commons

Wednesday, October 23, noon, Brown Bag Lunch: Insights into Immigration, Oxford Lane Library

Tuesday, November 5, Election Day—polls open from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm



Dear members of the League of Women Voters of Oxford Ohio (LWVOx),

Your league has been very active and visible this summer in our community, as we promote our mission of making democracy work. We have conducted multiple voter registration drives, marched in the Freedom Festival parade with our long-time member, Jane Strippel, and have had a significant and growing presence on Facebook and other platforms.

We have important work to do this fall, and we hope you will join us at the interesting events we have scheduled for the next few months. Starting with our **membership meeting/public program on elections and the new Butler County voting machines, taking place at the Knolls Commons on September 18**, and the **performance of the play (The Suffragettes) we are co-sponsoring at the Oxford Community Arts Center on September 25**, there are many opportunities for our members to participate in this energized LWV movement of making democracy work, during these times in which democracy seems to be under attack.

Your active membership is key to our ability to continue to be an influential, non-partisan voice for good government and fair elections. We fight for voter access, fair and efficient elections, and fair polling places. We provide much needed voter education, with our Voters' Guide publication and our heavily-attended **Candidates' Forum, which will take place at the Knolls Commons on October 16.** (note: I recently sent out a preliminary calendar of all our planned events for 2019-2020. If you did not see it, please contact me, and I will send it to you.)

Together we all make a true difference in the life of our wider community, encouraging participation in civic life, especially in voting. We have many challenges ahead this year, including pushing back on any elements of voter suppression that may emerge. But we have the skills and people power necessary to meet these challenges with effective actions that further the goals of democracy that our great nation has set out to achieve. Together we will take those actions, achieve those goals, and continue our advocacy for helping our country live up to its promise of liberty and justice for all.

Sincerely, *Sibyl Harris Miller* LWVOx Co-President for Organization



Start to Finish: How Your Ballot is Made and Counted

September 18, 2019

Speaker: Eric Corbin, Deputy Director, Butler County Board of Elections

7:30pm The Knolls of Oxford, Commons Auditorium, 6727 Fairfield Road, Oxford, OH

The League of Women Voters is currently focusing on “Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.” The right to vote is a fundamental principle of our democracy. When more Americans can participate in our elections, the outcome better reflects who we are as a country. But voting is a local action, we vote in a precinct, at a polling place that is run by our county’s Board of Elections. Therefore, the first meeting of the Oxford League of Women Voter this year will feature Eric Corbin, Deputy Director of the Butler County Board of Elections. Mr. Corbin will be detailing the work of the Board, explaining how the Board fulfills its duties to ensure voter access in an election system that is “free, fair, open and honest.” Among its commitments to the residents of Butler County, the Board of Elections is charged with “maintaining an accurate list of citizens who are qualified to vote” and “using equipment that reliably clarifies and registers the voter’s choice.”

This meeting will focus on the beginning of the process where candidates pull and file petitions, and then Mr. Corbin will talk about programming, proofing the machines, finally discuss how ballots are counted. In addition, he will demonstrate the new voting system that will be used for the first time this November.



"Suffragettes: With Liberty and Voting for All"

On Wednesday, Sept 25th, the Children's Theatre of Cincinnati will present "Suffragettes: With Liberty and Voting for All" at the Oxford Community Arts Center. This free performance is for kids of all ages and adults too! The performance will run from 7 to 8 pm. The LWV-Oxford is a proud co-sponsor and we are pleased to help bring this production to our community. Through story and song, learn about the great gift these women left us – an empowering heritage of pride, momentum and purpose. From 1920 to today, these women are a constant source of strength and inspiration. Experience the empowering history of the brave women who made triumphant strides through sacrifice and determination. Join us! All are welcome!

A Note on Word Usage:

Many people use the word "suffragette" and "suffragist" interchangeably, but they're not the same. We'll have a Voter article in the coming months that details some of the history of the suffrage movement and we'll expand on the differences at that time.

For now just know that, in the U.S., the term "suffragist" is the correct term but we don't think that the difference in terminology will detract one bit from this delightful play! See you there!

Jennifer Fisher



Oxford 2020 Census Committee

Our league has been involved in the 2020 census effort since our public program last January when Rose Simmons, U.S. Census Bureau, presented the history of the census and the changes for 2020, as well as the significant importance of an accurate count. At that time, she recommended that Oxford form a Complete Count Committee (CCC) so that all entities in the Oxford area could work towards ensuring that every person is counted.

With the City of Oxford taking the lead, the committee has met several times; in August, we received the necessary training to be an official CCC committee. LWV Oxford is in good company; also joining the effort are NAACP, Community Resource Center, Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services (TOPSS), Miami University, Oxford Senior Center, Three Valley Conservation Trust and others as they are invited to join. The group will make every effort to encourage the public to respond to the census in April 2020. You'll see lots of information from various groups over the coming months.

The census count will be used to create Ohio's new Congressional and Statehouse legislative maps and to distribute \$33 billion within the state annually. With the "citizenship question" issue behind us, thanks to the Supreme Court decision that it is not relevant to the purpose stated, the hope is that an accurate count of those who live in this country can be accomplished.

Kathie Brinkman



A Fun 4th of July Parade

What a great tradition Oxford's 4th of July parade is! Our little town has such fun marching in and watching the local groups come through town.

This year was special for our league, as Jane Strippel took part in the parade. Jane has been a league member since 1954! May we all be such long lived members of the league. Thank you, Jane and everyone who marched with us. Mark your calendar for next year and march with us!

Kathie Brinkman



Membership Update

Soon (2020) we will be celebrating the one hundred anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. The act didn't cover everyone so the work continued for many years as it continues yet today. For example, the majority of African American women didn't really get to vote until the 1965 Voters Right Act that prohibited racial discrimination in voting. People of Color were subjected to Jim Crow rules, 'literacy' tests (i.e., How many bubbles in a bar of soap? , Reciting a state's Constitution...) and other forms of suppression. **Native Americans** born in the U.S. weren't granted citizenship until June 2, 1924, Yet even after the **Indian** Citizenship Act, some **Native Americans** weren't allowed to **vote** because the right to **vote** was governed by state law. As late as 1957, some states barred **Native Americans** from **voting**!

The Oxford LWV has a strong history and many living legends among us. Local women and men have been working tirelessly to MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK. Thank you for continuing this work as a member of Oxford LWV. Please invite your friends and relatives to join us. LWV membership makes a special gift for a birthday or anniversary. Consider giving LWV membership to a grandchild or neighbor. Together we can effect change for the good of all

Enjoy these pictures of some of LWVOx's history donated by Jo McQueen:



Today, we are looking at voter suppression and gerrymandering. As you see, the work continues. The LWV Oxford is ACTIVE in this struggle to MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK. We need everyone's ideas and energy. There are numerous volunteer opportunities for you to become actively involved with our Oxford League of Women Voters. Membership continues to be robust and growing. Please let us know what skills you have to share and how you would like to join the work being done in Oxford.

We have many exciting events planned for this year. It will be a busy year with local elections.

You are invited to the **Public Meeting and membership drive on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 7:30pm at the Knolls Common Room.** The program is titled : *From Start to Finish: How Your Ballot Gets Made and Counted.* We will learn about the new Butler County voting machines. **Bring a friend along.**

The Oxford League of Women Voters (LWV) is sponsoring the Cincinnati Children's Theater performance of *The Suffragettes*(sic)at the Oxford Community Arts Center (**Wednesday, September 25 , 2019 at 7:00pm**). Bring the children, grandchildren and neighbors. This is a wonderful educational experience.

As always the Oxford LWV will hold the **Candidates Forum on Wednesday, October 16**at the Knolls Common Room. This is your chance to hear the positions of candidates running for public office.

There are many activities planned for the coming year and we hope you will participate. Watch the VOTER and LWV Facebook for details.

Please renew your LWV membership today. Grab your checkbook and send in your dues . We NEED you. Use the attached form below. *Kathy McMahon-Klosterman* Membership Director Oxford LWV



2019-2020

Public Programs, Brown Bag Lunch Meetings and Board meetings

Please put these meetings on your calendar – we have lots of relevant topics planned for the year. You won't want to miss these great programs!

Public Programs

All public programs are free and open to all. The addresses noted are in Oxford, OH 45056.

DATE/TIME	PROGRAM	LOCATION
09-18-2019 7:30PM	Start to Finish: How Your Ballot Is Made & Counted	Knolls of Oxford, Commons Auditorium: 6727 Contreras Rd.
09-25-2019 7PM	Suffragettes: With Liberty & Voting for All (LWV Oxford is a cosponsor of this event)	Oxford Community Arts Center: 10 S. College Ave.
10-16-2019 7PM	Candidates Forum	Knolls of Oxford, Commons Auditorium: 6727 Contreras Rd.
11-20-2019 7:30PM	Climate Action for Oxford	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Undercroft: 25 E. Walnut St.
01-15-2020 7:30PM	Suffragists & White Racism	Presbyterian Seminary Bldg. 2 nd floor: 104 E. Church St.
03-11-2020 7:30PM	2020 Census/Count Every Buckeye	Presbyterian Seminary Bldg. 2 nd floor: 104 E. Church St.

Brown Bag Lunch Meetings

These meetings begin at noon and are open to all LWV Oxford members (but if you have a friend who is interested in joining the league or an out-of-town guest, feel free to bring her/him along). Locations will be announced prior to the dates.

DATE	PROGRAM
10-23-2019	Insights into Immigration
02-19-2020	Gun Violence Solutions (and Root Causes)

LWV Oxford Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 10:30AM on the 1st Wednesday of most months at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church main floor boardroom (check the schedule below for variations). The meetings are open to all LWV Oxford members.

DATE
10-02-2019*
11-06-2019
12-04-2019
01-08-2020
02-05-2020
03-04-2020
04-01-2020
05-06-2020

* The 10-02-2019 meeting will be held in the Undercroft of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church – enter on the main floor and take the elevator down to the Undercroft.



On September 20, 5:30-7:00, The League will be registering voters uptown in the east park during the Unidiversity Celebration. If anyone would like to help, please call Becky Quay at 513-523-5747 or email her at quayrh@miamioh.edu.

The League and the Oxford NAACP will be sharing a table at Kroger's for voter registration on Saturday, September 28, 9:00-3:00. Fortunately, we have enough League volunteers for this day.

League of Women Voters of Oxford
P.O. Box 504
Oxford, OH 45056

Please make checks payable to LWV of Oxford and mail to P.O Box 504, Oxford, OH 45056.

Individual Member Dues \$60.00 _____ (not tax-deductible)

Household Members Dues (2) \$100.00 _____ (not tax-deductible)

Student Dues \$10.00 _____ (not tax-deductible)

Gift to LWVOx Operations Fund \$ _____ (not tax-deductible)

TOTAL: not tax-deductible \$ _____

Gift to LWVOx Education Fund \$ _____ and/ or Voter Information Guide (VIG) \$ _____

TOTAL: tax deductible \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ **Date** _____

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Name of additional member in household ** _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

*** Preferred Phone _____ Other Phone: _____

Preferred Email address _____

*** Preferred Email address _____

The League of Women Voters of Oxford welcomes all members. Yearly membership is from July1- June 30. A person can join at any time.

Comments (e.g. interests, how you heard about the League)
