

Voter Services Report for year 2017-2018  
Submitted by Janyce C. Katz, Esq. VP Voter Services

I am submitting this as my last Voter Services report as VP. It has been a fun four years, but I know Mary Burkey will be an outstanding leader of this committee. Already, she has grown the committee and there is an increased excitement among its members about what activities they will be pursuing in the future. I am very excited about her taking the reins of this committee as I know it will continue to flourish under her leadership.

A great example of what we can expect in the future from this committee is the very successful Voting 101 resources. Mary Burkey organized an Ohio Voice presentation about voting to 24 LWV members on May 6th. The presentation can be viewed on YouTube using these links or via PowerPoint which either Mary or I can send you if you are interested:

Voter Registration (full program) <https://youtube/hTXCK5cHZ88>; Voter Registration (Overview) <https://youtube/rpekWOyrHw4>

Early Voting <https://youtube/h6AP8A5rmEI>

Election Day Voting - <https://youtube/1hQ-WSHc770>

Also moving forward is another project headed by Ms. Burkey. This one is designed to help Girl Scouts get Citizenship Patches. The program for Girl Scouts will take place at the South-Western Career Academy / Columbus State, 4750 Big Run South Rd, Grove City, OH 43123 on October 27. Volunteers to help on various aspects of this program are wanted.

We had several registrations on Voter Registration Day, Sept. 26th. We also registered voters last fall at the first four candidates and issue forums of the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government that we staff and sponsor. We also had individuals collecting signatures for the Fair District ballot initiative will take place at all forums. The Voter Service Committee members are very enthusiastic about registering voters and have a good plan to have registration drives at multiple places during the next few months. Again, volunteers are always welcome and wanted. The Asian American & Pacific Islander Civic Engagement Network of Ohio (ACE) has given us a grant that will help defray the cost of some of these registration drives.

Perhaps the most exciting project for year 2017-2018 has been the program going into schools, teaching a little civics and registering those who are 18. Students not close enough to 18 to out cards so that they would be legal for them to do so. We received a grant from LWVUS to do this project. It has been spearheaded by Mary Austin Palmer, who has pulled together a good coalition of different organizations supplying volunteers to participate in registering the students. Picture of Mary on her birthday.



have recently turned 18 or will soon turn 18. Students not close enough to 18 to participate in actual registration could fill out cards so that they would be reminded to register when it would be legal for them to do so. We received a grant from LWVUS to do this project. It has been spearheaded by Mary Austin Palmer, who has pulled together a good coalition of different organizations supplying volunteers to participate in registering the students.

Here is Mary Austin Palmer's report: As of May 20, 2018, the following is noted:

We went to eight different high schools throughout the city of Columbus and one college:

1. Arts College Preparatory Academy
2. Centennial High School
3. East High School
4. West High School
5. Africentric High School
6. Eastmoor High School
7. Downtown High School
8. Briggs High School
9. Otterbein University

\*\* Cristo Rey Columbus High School is scheduled for May 29, 2018 (pictured – a registration)



Count as to date:

Provided fifty(50) class room hours of basic civics education

This was done with the assistance of fifty-three (53) volunteers from the following organizations (Jewish Council of Women, Southeast Progressives, Delta Sigma Theta Columbus Alumnae Chapter and League of Women Voters Metropolitan Columbus).

With Ray Miller was a guest speaker at East High School

Students attendance -- 387

Registration Cards collected and delivered to Franklin County Board of Elections -- 240

Registration cards given to students to take home — Ninety-two 92

Teachers and students enjoyed the presentation and appreciated information. We were asked to return next year.

Mary Austin Palmer requested big applause for all volunteers who helped, but I think that the biggest applause should go to her for being so well organized, thoughtful and so good at developing and implementing this wonderful program.

Elizabeth Grieser, our Operations Manager put out the Voter Information Bulletin and the 411Vote. These tasks take quite a bit of time as they involved lots of detail work and editing. The end product was excellent and was very useful. Thank you, Elizabeth.

Just to quickly mention an important function that used to be under Voter Services to ensure its is noted – the information phones at TV10. Beth Taggart successfully held these events for the November general election and the May 2018 primary. Applause there as well and to the entire Communications Committee.

Last fall, the Franklin County Consortium for Good Government held seven candidates and issue forums.



Three  
streamed  
  
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hear the  
standing



were streamed by television stations and one was on the Bexley governmental channel; six were mentioned in at least one news story (two were by two different stations), and people came out to candidates. Several of them were room only. We had many positive comments about the forums this ran a very favorable editorial



year. The Columbus Dispatch praising the work of the Consortium. Off year, the Consortium plays a more significant role, because races aren't predecided by gerrymandering and, in small cities, we provide a useful service. For example, the first forum at Prairie Township had only 30 plus there to hear the Township Trustee race, most of whom left after that race was over. While I was appalled at the numbers remaining for the next race, the School Board candidates were excited to finally have a forum in that area and thought the crowd size was decent. BOE Deputy Director David Payne and LWVMC President Barb Hykes spoke at the beginning of the forum. Both were very well received.

The Northland Performing Arts Center forum had at its height over 120 non and



some of the after the Council – ended. This was Issue 2 based upon interviews and



candidate supporters. A bus older ones, and the decreased by 50 race – Columbus candidate came for crowd percent City City streamed by TV10 and ABC6 did a story about shots of the issue part of the forum.



League help can be seen in the forum. The most successful forum packed, people packed the hall outside of the room in which the forum was held and listed to the discussion piped out of the City Council meeting room. Worthington's forum, also later was also packed, because the races and issue being presented were extremely important to the Worthington residents.

In the Spring of 2018, we held two forums. The first, on April 12, was a Consortium, LWVMC, Delaware LWV and Licking County LWV coalition forum to vet the many candidates running for the vacant US Congressional District 12 seat. Almost all candidates attended. It was broadcast and streamed live by ABC6. Producer Liz Lane said viewership was very high for race during the primary in a specific district. She said the forum was well done and especially liked the times who snapped the time cards at the

moderator to keep him from letting candidates talk too long. The second forum on May 3 covered issue 1 and issue 3 on the ballot. Turn out was disappointing low and there was no one streaming or broadcasting the event. A young man did tape it and part of it is on YouTube political. However, this forum was rather close to the election, and the young man could not get the edited version to us to post until the day of the election. Next time, we will hold a forum like this earlier.

Again, it has been a learning experience and a pleasure to have returned to do a second four-year stint as Voter Services VP. I am happy to leave this committee in good hands.