

**League of
Women
Voters of
Lake County**

The Leaguer

UP & COMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEETING
March 18, 2017
10:00AM
Wickliffe Library

BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2017
6:00PM
**Willoughby Hills
Community Center**

GENERAL MEETING
April 22, 2017
10:00AM
Wickliffe Library
Water Quality

BOARD MEETING
May 11, 2017
6:00PM
**Willoughby Hills
Community Center**



President's Message

I would like to thank Ellen for doing a wonderful job of leading the February meeting so that I could attend a family funeral. And I thank you for the support I received in my grief.

Now, on to more pleasant topics. Seven of us attended the annual Statehouse Day on March 7. I have prepared a synopsis of the sessions which you will find elsewhere. Pairs of us were able to meet with Sen. Eklund and the aides of Sen. Yuko and Rep. Rogers. This time with our legislators is quite valuable. I hope that they are also getting letters and phone calls from many members expressing your opinions on proposed bills. On Saturday, March 18 we will have a presentation from the director of Project Hope for the Homeless. She will be discuss ways in which they help some of the area's mentally ill residents. We hope that you will be able to attend the 10 a.m. meeting at Wickliffe Library.

On Saturday, April 22 our speaker will be Heather Elmer, executive director of Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc. We are anxious to hear about proposed changes to legislation and to funding may affect our waters. As with the previous subjects, there is more information elsewhere in this issue.

We hope that you are saving the date for our Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 3 at noon. We will have a lovely time at the Steele Mansion in Painesville. The topic will be behavioral health services in Lake County. This ties in perfectly with our proposed new local position, which we will hopefully adopt at the meeting.

So there are lots of interesting meetings on the horizon, and we hope many members will be able to participate. We have several new members, so please make them feel welcome at our events! It's always nice to have new points of view in our discussions. And be thinking about topics you would like to research and/or discuss in the future.

Beth Hutton

Board Meetings
 Second Thursday of every month
 6:00pm
 Willoughby Hills
 Community Center
 (Open to all LWV members)

General Meetings
 Third Saturday of every month
 10:00am
 Location Varies
 (Open to the public)

President
Beth Hutton

First Vice President
Ellen Chamberlin

Second Vice President
Carol Pred

Secretary
Ann Radcliffe

Treasurer
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BOARD MEMBERS
Joyce Grady
Glenn Gross
Sandra Luther
Jeff Oviatt

**Chairperson of
 Nominating Committee**
Open seat

Newsletter Editor
Ann Radcliffe

UPCOMING UNIT MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 AT 10:00 a.m.

WICKLIFFE LIBRARY, LINCOLN AVE. COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

Judy Burr, Executive Director of Project Hope will inform our membership about how they help their guests who have mental health issues. She will also discuss their new family facility and their capital campaign goals. Why after almost 30 years have Lake County's homeless populations continued to grow? In light of the proposed Local Position on Behavior Health Care which we will be considering at our Annual Meeting on June 3 at Steele Mansion in Painesville, this program will provide much needed understanding of some of the current issues in our county. Please plan to attend and bring your questions. Guests are of course always welcome.

April meeting preview:

Heather Elmer, *Executive Director*,
 Chagrin River Watershed Partners, Inc

I would be glad to discuss how federal and state grant programs such as the U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative have benefitted Lake County. \$2.7 million in GLRI funding has been awarded for projects in the Chagrin River watershed since 2010. Several other state and federal programs for which cuts are proposed also provide critical funding support for watershed protection and restoration efforts.

Join Heather Elmer, Executive Director of Chagrin River Watershed Partners, to learn about efforts to protect and restore our local waterways and Lake Erie. Ms. Elmer will discuss the diverse environmental, economic, and social values that healthy watersheds provide; land use planning and policy approaches that maintain these benefits; and nature-based solutions to flooding, erosion and water pollution. Find out how Lake County communities, residents and businesses are caring for streams and Lake Erie and how you can get involved.



NOTE:
 If anyone is interested in being a Chairperson for the Nominating Committee or would like to serve on the Board of Directors please let Beth Hutton or Carol Pred know at the next General Meeting.

Report on Program Planning: By Ellen Chamberlin

Eight members were present and one guest. Here are the results which were forwarded to the State League on February 28.

ATTENDANCE: REGULARLY SCHEDULED UNIT MEETING. 8 MEMBERS

- PRIORITY CONCERN: {
- GOVERNMENT POSITIONS
 - REDISTRICTING
 - ACCESS TO VOTING-VOTING RIGHTS
 - CAMPAIGN FINANCE
 - TRUTHFUL INFORMATION ABOUT ISSUES AND CANDIDATES (BACKGROUND CHECKS AND TAX RETURNS FOR ALL CANDIDATES)

 - NATURAL RESOURCES
 - PROTECT FUNCTION OF THE EPA
 - CLEAN WATER/ WATER DIVERSION FROM GREAT LAKES
 - MASS TRANSIT
 - "MORE APPROPRIATIONS FOR REBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL

 - SOCIAL POLICY
 - CONTINUED FOCUS ON EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS
 - TRANSPORTATION
 - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
 - BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN OWNERS

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 3, 2017
STEELE MANSION
348 Mentor Ave, Painesville

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Featuring Jonathan Lee
CEO of Signature Health

Report from Statehouse Day 2017

Those of you who were not able to attend the event may want to go to the state League's website: www.lwvohio.org. Under the Statehouse Day tab of the member section you will find reports from our various lobbyists on about 10 topics. I would also like to give you a quick report from some of the speakers we heard.

State Budget: Primary and Secondary education still receive about 43% of state funds, but the amount budgeted for them will be flat in the next biennium. More than half of the districts will lose money. Medicaid expansion has allowed 700,000 Ohioans to access health care. We have a lower uninsured rate than 2/3 of other states. 43% of those recipients are employed. The new state budget would impose premiums on certain groups of enrollees. There will be more money for the prevention of infant mortality. Although there is a greater need for child protective services due to the drug epidemic, there will be no additional funds allotted. The funding for mental health and addiction services will also be flat-lined. Public transit funding will drop off precipitously in 2019. Since 2005 there has been a major shift in the tax burden from income tax to sales tax. In the 2017-19 budget proposal there will be a \$39 million tax cut. On average, the poor will pay \$64 more, the middle class \$44 more and the wealthiest 1% will pay \$2,412 less.

Advocacy: Do not let yourself be overwhelmed by the enormity of an issue. Just do something! The most effective ways are: talk to the party in power; avoid partisanship; call your legislator (mass emails or facebook posts are not effective); attend in-district meetings; write letters to the editor. Also, look at the leadership structure in your area of interest. Contact legislators on those committees even if they're not your representatives.

"Rat Fked" by David Daley:** yes, that is the name of his book. He was our keynote speaker. Mr. Daley admitted that gerrymandering has existed as long as our country. But due to technological advancement and dark money there is "gerrymandering on steroids". Uncontested races are up to about 45%. In 2016 there were only 37 competitive (within 10%) congressional districts in the country! More than 400 of the 435 districts are not competitive after the primaries. This makes districts susceptible to extremes and sends politicians to Washington D.C. without the desire to compromise.

Planned Parenthood: Our speaker was the president of Planned Parenthood of Ohio, and a member of LWVO Kent. She spoke on the importance of access to women's health care. Abortions account for only about 4% of care provided by P.P. Many of their facilities are in rural or urban areas where women do not have easy access to other health care options. Access to birth control has helped to narrow the gap between men and women's finances. \$1 spent now saves \$7 in later social service expenditures.

Clean Energy: The components of clean energy are wind, solar and hydro power, and also energy efficiency. There is no such thing as "clean coal". In 2015 renewable energy surpassed coal-based energy production globally. The use of coal is being "killed" by natural gas, which is cheaper. Ohio's electrical portfolio: coal=59%; petroleum= 1.1%; natural gas= 23%. The rest is renewal energy sources. But there is an attempt in the Ohio House to rescind the energy efficiency goal.

Charter Schools: Shawn Busken of Auditor Yost's office spoke to us. The Auditor was in favor of the bill passed last year to impose more checks and balances on charter schools. (HB2) His office audits every charter school in Ohio, **unless** it is managed by a private corporation, in which case they don't have that right. He would like to change that. Auditors have issued 153 Findings for Recovery on Charter Schools. Almost 50% of FFRs since 2011 have been on charter schools. You can see the results of these findings at www.ohioauditor.gov/findings. There are currently 362 charter schools in Ohio. In 2016, since HB 2 passed, two and a half times as many charter schools closed as opened.

Advocacy Alert: NAMI of Lake County Ohio

American Health Care Act was recently unveiled by Congress:

- It caps Medicaid Funding
- It would reduce Federal help to purchase insurance
- It would freeze Medicaid expansion in 2020

This could harm people with Mental Illness

- With Federal reductions millions of people including those with mental illness will not be able to afford mental health care.
- This will jeopardize mental health services and leave many without the treatment that they need to function daily.

Please call your U.S Representative and tell them that this unacceptable.

- “Congress should not put millions of Americans with Mental Illness at risk”.
- “Affordable, quality health coverage promotes recovery and reduces the financial burden on the taxpayers in avoidable long-term disability, criminal justice involvement and hospital care”.