

The VOTER

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The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

January 2004

Program-Planning Session to Discuss International Relations, Other Topics

What goes well with international relations and some League program planning for 2004 through 2005? How about wine from France, cheeses from Italy, more wine from Australia, olives from Spain and a few bottles of California's best?

If you agree, then mark your calendar for the Kent League's program planning meeting on Wednesday, January 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe, 970 Cottage Gate Drive in Kent.



The meeting will be an evening of socializing mixed with decisions about programs for the months ahead. We also will be reviewing and making recommendations on local and national

positions—including the Portage County justice system, natural resources and Kent city finances.

The event is a great way for new members to learn about the League and for current members to rekindle interest in programming. Everyone is encouraged to share ideas and opinions on the various topics under discussion.



Transportation to the meeting will be provided for those who need it. We also welcome donations of refreshments—including wines and cheese from around the world, crackers and condiments. To request a ride or to sign up to donate refreshments, call Amie at 330/688-9545 or Jan at 330/678-1261. Ciao! And bon appetit!

League to Tour Recycling Center

Each week you do your part for the environment and put out bins full of recyclable materials—from cans and bottles to newspapers and magazines. But where does it all go?

Find out the answer by joining the Kent League of Women Voters for a guided tour of the

Portage County Recycling Center on Saturday, February 21, following a breakfast buffet at McKenna's Restaurant in Brimfield.

Transportation to the restaurant will be provided by PARTA.

See *CENTER*, p. 3.

Candidates' Night Meetings Draw Interested Citizens

The League's preelection candidates' night sessions were well-attended, drawing 15 to 20 people at two of the three locations. The depth of the questions posed to the candidates indicated a keen interest among voters.

Thanks to those who helped, including Anita Bixenstine, Amie Cajka, Jan Rusnack, Kerry Macomber, Roberta O'Keefe and Harold Walker.



LWVK Events Alert . . .

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Program planning and wine-and-cheese social; home of Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe, 970 Cottage Gate Drive, Kent; transportation available

Saturday, Feb. 21, 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast and tour of Portage County Recycling Center; meet at PARTA transportation center, 2000 Summit Road (S.R. 261 & Summit) for free bus transportation to McKenna's Restaurant in Brimfield and the recycling center

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From the VP's Desk:

A look back... A look forward

Last fall, in my introductory comments for this column, I unveiled the Kent League's motto for 2003. As Jan Rusnack (our League coordinator) expressed it, we wanted it to be a year of facts, friends, food and fun. Looking backward and forward at the League's activities for 2003 and 2004, I'd like to add another *F* to describe us: flair! Read on, and see if you don't agree.

Our September kick-off meeting was a congenial breakfast with our Congressman, U.S. Representative Tim Ryan.

In November, we learned the "nuts and bolts" of voting in Portage County from the director of the Portage County Board of Elections. We then looked at the jury selection process and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the jury commissioner for the county and a trial court judge—all in the setting of a remodeled courtroom. Attendees sat in the seats of potential jurors waiting to be selected for a jury.

December's gourmet brunch at the Bistro on Main provided an opportunity to meet not only newly elected public officials but also two Kent State University students who had spent several fascinating months in Afghanistan. If these two events are any indication, then I'd say the Kent League is doing things with a definite flair!

In 2003, we also got our Web site up and running, providing information to members and the public alike about matters such

as candidates in the November election and, afterward, the results of the voting.

The League's future looks equally "flair-ful." Check the article on page 1 for information about our annual program-planning meeting in January. The format will be one like you've never seen before. The upcoming months also hold plans for a unit meeting involving a trip to the Portage County Recycling Center with transportation provided by PARTA. Oh, and did I mention that there's food before that experience, too?

There's much more to come in the months ahead, and I urge all League members to participate in the activities planned for this five-*F* year.

In closing, thanks to several League members who helped provide the organization with such a fabulous (uh-oh, another *F*) time so far. Jan Rusnack pulled together the unique "making democracy work" program at the courthouse and Linda Martell (arrangements) and Barb Hipsman Springer (student speakers) did a great job with the December brunch. Through much of the fall, too, Kerry Macomber and many other concerned League members made our finance drive happen so successfully. Good job!

Best wishes to all for a wonderfully rewarding new year—especially with the League.

— *Debby*

The VOTER is published eight to 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Kent.

Editor & Webmaster

Audrey Cielinski Kessler
Owner, The Write Hand of Ohio
330/677-8598
audck@neo.rr.com

Board Members

Jan Rusnack, Coordinator
330/678-1261
jankent0417@msn.com

Christine Bhargava, Co-Vice Pres.
330/678-3135
chrisbhar@att.net

Debby Newberry, Co-Vice Pres.
330/678-1816
bnewberry@neo.rr.com

Jeanne Schmidlin, Secretary
330/678-1853
jaschmid@aol.com

Nena Hankins, Treasurer
330/673-0128
nhankins@att.net

Directors

Nancy Adams, Land Use/Environ.
330/673-6548
nadams@gwis.com

Anne Andrews, Action Alerts/Camp.
330/678-0858
amandrews@sherwin.com

Nancy Auran, Voters' Guide/
Voter Service
330/678-6152
auran@core.com

Paulla Gates, Charter Schools
330/325-3253
gatesgatesy@aol.com

Kerry Macomber, Finance
330/628-2301
macomber@apk.net

Gail Pytel, Death Penalty
330/673-3282
gpytel@neo.rr.com

Karen Schofield
330/673-6515
karen.schofield@neonet.k12.oh.us

Barb Springer, Candidates Meetings/
Voter Service
330/678-0681
bhipsman@kent.edu

CENTER

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To take advantage of this free ride, meet at PARTA's transit center at 2000 Summit Road (just east of the intersection of S.R. 261 and Summit Road).

Before leaving the restaurant for the Recycling Center at 10:30 a.m., Charles Ramer, director of the Portage County Solid Waste District, will give an update on the status of solid-waste management from Portage County's perspective. In addition, a PARTA official will discuss the transportation provider's expanded services while participants are en route to the various destinations.

After the tour, the bus will return to the Summit Road

transportation center around 12:30 p.m.

To take the tour, comfortable walking shoes or boots with good treads are a must for climbing ladders and ramps throughout the center. Because of the nature of the recycling operation and the limited number of seats available at McKenna's, **only the first 35 reservations received before the deadline of Monday, February 9, may attend.**

So act now, and return the Reservation Form (on back page of this newsletter) along with a check for \$12 made payable to LWVK to Nena Hankins, 1950 Kimberly Drive, Kent, OH 44240. For questions, call Hankins at 330/673-0128 or Jan Rusnack at 330/678-1261.

LWVUS Position on Presidential Selection Set for Review

The national League recently announced its intention to review the organization's 30-year-old position on the selection of the president of the United States. The current position supports direct election of the president and the abandonment of the Electoral College process that is the law of the land today.

In undertaking the review, the national League notes the need to measure the country's values against factors that have altered the presidential-selection process, including the situation surrounding the controversial 2000 presidential election.

2003 Holiday Brunch Highlights

Each year, the Kent League of Women Voters hosts a holiday brunch for newly elected officials and current office-holders. This year's event was held at The Bistro on Main Street in Kent. Among the officials attending were State Rep. Kathleen Chandler, Portage County Commissioner Maureen Frederick and Portage County Municipal Judge Barbara Watson.



Charter League member Helen Dix (second from left) received an enthusiastic holiday greeting from League members (left to right) Jane Preston Rose, Portage County Municipal Judge Barbara Watson and Kent City Schools Board of Education member Jan Rusnack. Watson and Rusnack won their bids for reelection in November. They were recognized as part of the League's event for newly elected officials.



Nena Hankins, former Franklin Township clerk and a Kent League member (seated left) and her husband Ken, who also held the clerk position, introduced the township's new clerk, Janet Hughes (seated right) at the brunch. State Rep. Kathleen Chandler (standing left) filled League members in on state politics.

**Breakfast & Recycling Center
Reservation Form**

*Saturday, February 21
8:30 a.m.*

*Meet at PARTA Transportation Center
2000 Summit Road (S.R. 261 & Summit Road)
\$12 per person*

*Bus Returns to Transportation Center at 12:30 p.m.
Registration Deadline: Monday, February 9*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Number of Reservations _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

*Make checks payable to LWVK. Send your check and this form
to Nena Hankins, 1250 Kimberly Drive, Kent, OH 44240*



LWVK Calendar . . .

January

- 14 League Board Meeting**
Coleman Professional Services, 5982 Rhodes Road, Kent;
6:30 p.m.
- 14 Program Planning**
Discussion and selection of League programs for 2004
through 2005; home of Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe,
970 Cottage Gate Drive, Kent; 7:30 p.m.

February

- 11 League Board Meeting**
Coleman Professional Services, 5982 Rhodes Road, Kent;
6:30 p.m.
- 21 Breakfast and Tour of Portage County Recycling
Center**
Meet at PARTA transportation center, 2000 Summit
Road (S.R. 261 & Summit), for free bus transportation
to McKenna's Restaurant in Brimfield and the recycling
center, 8:30 a.m.



*Happy
New
Year!*

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Audrey Cielinski Kessler, Editor
1638 S. Lincoln Street
Kent, OH 44240-4449