

# The VOTER

Vol. 50, No. 5

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

September 2003

## Rep. Tim Ryan to Address LWVK Fall General Meeting

First-term congressman U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan will be the featured speaker at the Kent League's fall general meeting and buffet luncheon on Saturday, September 20.

The event begins at 11:30 a.m. in the main dining room of the Rusty Nail restaurant (7291 S.R. 43 in Kent).

The 17th Congressional District representative will talk about the challenges he encountered during his first year in office and what he did to overcome those

hurdles. Ryan's district covers most of Portage and Trumbull counties and portions of Summit and Mahoning counties.

Ryan, a 30-year-old Democrat from Niles, took office as a new member of the 108th Congress on January 7, 2003. He serves on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Armed Services Committee, and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. In his role as a legislator, Ryan has placed considerable emphasis on being an

advocate for working families in Northeast Ohio.

Before he was elected to Congress, Ryan served as an Ohio state senator and the ranking minority member on the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He also was a member of the Senate Committee on Highways and Transportation, the Judiciary Committee on Criminal Justice, and the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee.

See RYAN, p. 3.

### HELP WANTED

#### Membership Committee

Help with the development and retention of Kent League members. The League's board has some ideas but needs help with implementation. No experience necessary. Enthusiasm a plus!

#### Publicity Person

Prepare League-related articles for local newspapers and other outlets for disseminating news about Kent League activities. No experience necessary. Enthusiasm a plus!

#### Publications Coordinator

Order and organize state and national League publications. No experience necessary. Enthusiasm a plus!

To volunteer any of these League jobs, call Jan Rusnack at 330/678-1261.

#### Coordinator, Summit-Portage LEADER Institute

Part-time position. Coordinate leadership-skills training program for high school youth, sponsored by the Akron Area, Hudson, Tallmadge, Kent and Northern Portage County Leagues. For specific responsibilities, selection criteria and application procedure, call Sandra Beckett at 330/630-2420 or Ardith Keck at 330/836-1974. Application deadline is September 5. Volunteer facilitators also needed. Call Sandra Beckett for more information.



#### LWVK Events

#### Alert . . .

#### Saturday, September 20

Fall General Meeting and Luncheon  
Speaker: U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan on "The First Year in Congress"; Rusty Nail Restaurant main dining area, 7291 S.R. 43, Kent, 11:30 a.m., \$15 per person, guests welcome, reservations required by September 13

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## From the VP's Desk:

### *What's up with the League?*

As League members have been dodging rain drops this summer, your board has been confronting some organizational changes (with the times, as it were) for the Kent League. Before I tell you our ideas, let me first introduce myself. I'm Debby Newberry. I will be serving this year as co-vice-president with Christine Bhargava.

We will be sharing this column on alternating publication months. Christine's column will appear in the next issue. Behind the scenes, Jan Rusnack has volunteered to be our off-board League coordinator. To get us started, she coined our slogan for the year: The Four F's—Facts, Friends, Food and Fun!



The League's summer activities included a booth at the Kent Heritage Festival (thanks to Barb Springer and her booth associates for helping to make the booth a success) and our July board orientation (thanks to hostess Christine Bhargava for her generous hospitality).

In June, Shirley Ohles let us use her home for a focus group of old, new, active and inactive members who spoke freely about what they valued and objected to about the League. The words *learning*, *friends* and *action* recurred often in a positive light as many different ideas were expressed.

A final summer activity is our famous "Night at the Races" at Northfield Park. By now,

you should have received an invitation in the mail to this annual fund-raising event.



Now for the changes in the League that I alluded to earlier. In an effort to keep the organization more personal and accessible to its members, we have scheduled some morning meetings as was done in years past. We will still have an evening meeting on the same topic, such as libraries or mental health. You can go to either meeting or both. We're calling these small-group meetings "Unit Meetings." The objective is to have more personal group functions.

Mentoring of new members has become a priority as well, along with reactivation of the observer corps, which provides a fine opportunity for everyone to participate. On the money end of things, we are replacing our (costly) League telephone with a Kent League Web site. Your suggestions for reshaping the League are certainly welcome and encouraged.

When all is said and done, however, the Kent League is its members. We hope to involve each of you in at least one of our activities during the coming months. . . . We are striving to remain the effective, respected organization we have always been. Welcome back, Leaguers. We'll be in touch.

— Debby

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

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# LWVK Income Statement for FYE 6/30/03

# League Registers Voters at Heritage Festival Booth

The following is the Kent League of Women Voters' income statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2003.

## Kent League of Women Voters Income Statement for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2003

Income	Actual	Budget	Variance
Dues	\$2,770.00	\$3,225.00	\$ (455.00)
Contributions	2,505.00	4,195.00	(1,690.00)
Other	154.25	635.00	(480.75)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,429.25</b>	<b>\$8,055.00</b>	<b>\$(2,625.75)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Board & Administration	\$ 842.20	\$1,190.00	\$ (347.80)
Fund-Raising	75.20	400.00	(324.80)
Education	201.60	1,005.00	(803.40)
<i>VOTER</i>	1,300.26	1,850.00	(549.74)
League & Public Support	2,643.87	2,460.00	183.87
Events	141.12	350.00	(208.88)
Travel & Meetings	510.00	800.00	(290.00)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,714.25</b>	<b>\$8,055.00</b>	<b>\$(2,340.75)</b>
Excess	\$ (285.00)	\$0.00	\$285.00)
Beginning Balance	\$3,424.28		
Ending Balance	\$3,139.28		
<b>Education Fund</b>			
Income	\$ 526.00		
Expenses	702.75		
Excess	\$(176.75)		
Beginning Balance	583.29		
Ending Balance	\$ 406.54		

Although the League's booth at the Kent Heritage Festival was dismantled early because of concerns about a possibly heavy rainstorm, a handful of residents were able to register to vote before the rain arrived. Booth workers also distributed nearly every piece of information on hand.

Thanks to all who helped, including Nena Hankins, Jan Rusnack, Anne Andrews, Karen Fuller, Leigh Lambert, Nancy Adams and Linda Martell.

## VOTER to Offer E-Mail Option

If you have an e-mail address, you now can get your copy of *The VOTER* online rather than in your postal mailbox. As an online recipient, you will get your copy in color.

The decision to use electronic delivery was based in part on the need to trim the League's budget.

To receive your color copy electronically, send your e-mail address to Jan Rusnack at jankent0417@msn.com. Also specify if you do or do not want your e-mail address given to the state and national Leagues.

## Observer Report: A Recap of Portage County Commissioners' Meeting

League coordinator Jan Rusnack attended the Portage County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, July 29, and reported that all members were present at 9:14 a.m. when the meeting called to order. The main topic was flooding and its ramifications.

Commissioner Chuck Keiper left at 9:45 a.m. to accompany Congressman Tim Ryan for a tour of flooded areas. Assistant prosecutor Denise Smith Budget and Finance Director John Lehman, and Internal Auditor Carol Kurtz presented reports.

RYAN

*Continued from p. 3*

As a state senator, Ryan spearheaded efforts to establish a state-based earned income tax credit, standardize community-school data reporting and strengthen laws that penalize sexually oriented offenses. He

also established the first Collegiate Political Action Committee as a way to get young people involved in the political process.

Tickets for the event are \$15. Reservations are required (see form on page 4 of this issue of *The VOTER*). Deadline for reservations is September 13.

### Coming Up . . .

Be sure to check the October issue of *The VOTER* for information on candidates and issues meetings that can help you make informed decisions on election day in November. Also look for information about monthly Unit Meetings on topics such as charter schools and the death penalty.

**LWVK Fall General Meeting  
Featuring U.S. Representative Tim Ryan**

*Saturday, September 20  
11:30 a.m.  
The Rusty Nail  
7291 S.R. 43 in Kent  
\$15 per person for buffet luncheon  
Guests Welcome  
Registration Deadline: September 13*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to LWVK. Send your check and this form  
to Christine Bhargava, 630 Rustic Knoll Drive, Kent, OH 44240*



**LWVK Calendar . . .**

**September**

- 10 League Board Meeting**  
Coleman Professional Services, 5982 Rhodes Road, Kent,  
6:30 p.m.
- 20 General Meeting**  
Fall General Meeting & Luncheon, Speaker: U.S. Representative  
Tim Ryan on "The First Year in Congress," Rusty Nail Restau-  
rant, 7291 S.R. 43, Kent, 11:30 a.m., \$15 per person, reserva-  
tions required by September 13, guests welcome

**October**

- 8 League Board Meeting**  
Coleman Professional Services, 5982 Rhodes Road, Kent,  
6:30 p.m.
- 8 Unit Meeting**  
Topic: Issues, Library, Mental Health; 7:30 p.m., location to be  
announced
- 9 Unit Meeting**  
Topic: Issues, Library, Mental Health; 9:30 a.m., location to be  
announced

**November**

- 12 League Board Meeting**  
Coleman Professional Services, 5982 Rhodes Road, Kent,  
6:30 p.m.
- 20 General Meeting**  
Topic: Making Democracy Work, 7:30 p.m., location to be  
announced

*The VOTER*  
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