

# The VOTER

Vol. 53, No. 3

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

April 2006

## League's 20-Year-Old Parks, Rec Position to Get Make-Over

It took a couple of decades, but the parks and recreation position of the Kent League of Women Voters will undergo a thorough revision on April 17. Members will meet at 7 p.m. at the Roy Smith Shelter House in Fred Fuller Park, 497 Middlebury Road, Kent.

First adopted in 1965, the position will be revised as part of a concurrence process in which a committee-drafted rewrite is presented to the membership for review, discussion and approval. The next step is for the concurrence position to be approved by the board of directors at their

April meeting. Then the position is submitted for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

The update will be the basis for the League's review this fall of information related to renewal of a Kent parks and recreation continuing levy. The issue is being sought as a continuing levy because of recent changes in the Ohio Revised Code.

Nancy Adams has led the concurrence process as chair of the Land Use Study Committee. The committee has invited Kent Parks and Recreation Director John Idone and Portage Park District Director Chris Craycroft to attend and answer questions.

### LWVK Current Position Statement on Kent Parks and Recreation

The League supports:

- An adequate public recreation program and park facilities in Kent and Portage County
- Kent providing park and recreation programs for all ages
- Kent providing adequate funding to maintain these programs as an integral part of the city's program
- Continued operation of the community pool program at Kent Roosevelt High School.
- Revision of Kent City regulations to allow developers' fees that more closely reflect current land market values in lieu of land for parks. Property tax levies are appropriate revenue sources for park and recreation funds
- Urging the use of federal/state funds and programs to develop and maintain both city and county parks and programs
- Establishing a governmental park district to oversee the development of existing County Park lands
- A county park levy

### LWVK Proposed Position Statement on Kent Parks and Recreation

The League supports:

- Adequate public recreation programs and park facilities in Kent
- Kent providing park and recreation programs for all ages
- Kent providing adequate funding to maintain these programs. Property tax levies, program and developers' fees are appropriate revenue sources for park and recreation funds
- Kent City regulations which allow developers' fees to reflect current land market values in lieu of land for parks
- The use of federal/state funds and programs to develop and maintain both city and county parks and programs
- Continued cooperation between the Kent Parks & Recreation Department and Kent City School System to ensure adequate gymnasium and meeting space for Kent City recreation programming in addition to the continued operation of the community pool at Kent Roosevelt High School
- Establishment of a broad based source of revenue for the Portage Park District that would provide adequate funds for: the conservation of environmentally sensitive natural areas; a system of green hike/bike trails connecting communities and parkland throughout Portage County; partnerships with townships and municipalities in land conservation projects; expansion of environmental education programs. Specific broad based sources of funding could be a county park levy, designated developers' fees, transfer tax allocations or other viable options
- Active planning and collaborative efforts among regional governmental units such as the Portage County Commissioners, townships, municipalities and Portage Park District to enhance the conservation and protection of the natural heritage of Portage County, which might include watersheds, wetlands, forest, and other environmentally sensitive areas



### LWVK Events Alert . . .

**Monday, April 17, 7 p.m.**

Review and update of LWVK position on parks and recreation; Roy Smith Shelter House, Fred Fuller Park, 497 Middlebury Road, Kent (see article this page).

### Inside . . .

From the President's Desk . . . . .	2
LWVK Annual Meeting . . . . .	2
Kent Schools Levy . . . . .	3
Hudson League's Theater Party . . . . .	3
LWVO Phonathon . . . . .	3
WKSU Tour Photos . . . . .	4
Calendar . . . . .	4



## From the President's Desk:

### *Parks & Rec ... ANWR ... Annual Meeting ... Officer Elections*

Nationally and locally, the League has been advocating for protection and preservation of the environment. We hope to see you at the Kent League's April 17 meeting, where we will revise our long-standing position on parks and recreation in Kent and Portage County

On a related matter, the national League is back alerting us to stop legislative efforts to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. The LWVUS writes: "Action is needed to prevent Congress from trying again to use the budget process to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling! Drilling proponents still do not have the votes to open the Refuge outright, so they are trying to use the budget as a filibuster-proof vehicle to give oil companies access to the pristine lands. The Senate has passed a budget resolution for fiscal year 2007 that includes revenues from new oil and gas leases in the Arctic. So, once again it is up to the House of Representatives to reject this maneuver."

Write or e-mail your representative to keep ANWR out of the budget! This tactic was stopped last year by the response from League members and other concerned citizens. To learn more about the issue, go to the LWVUS Web site, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). You also can e-mail your representative from the site and express your opposition.

Another important issue to consider this spring is officers for the Kent League. We need members to step forward and take over critical leadership roles. The nominating committee will be looking for a president and vice president for the next program year. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on May 27. We need new leaders for the Voters' Guide and Voter Service committees. There are many wonderful mentors who will help volunteers willing to do their part to sustain the Kent League. Special thanks to Barb Hipsman, Sylvia Armstrong, Karen Fuller and Barb Fox who are leaving leadership positions after May.

- *Amie*

## League Annual Meeting Set for May 27

Mark your calendar for the Kent League's Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 27. We will gather at noon at the Triple Crown Restaurant on S.R. 91 in Munroe Falls.



Your Annual Meeting packet

will be mailed after the April 19 board of directors' meeting. The packet will include a reservation form and more details about the meeting. Linda Martell, who is

coordinating the arrangements, is working on a program and a menu. This is an important meeting! Members will be voting on a new president and vice president (or co-presidents). The following is a tentative schedule for the event:

- 11:45 p.m.-Noon: Arrivals
  - Noon-12:45 p.m.: Lunch
  - 12:45 p.m.-1:15 p.m.: Business meeting
  - 1:15 p.m.-2 p.m.: Program
- Hope to see you there!

The **VOTER** is published eight to 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Kent. The newsletter is available both in print and online at the League's Web site: <http://www.kent.oh.lwvnet.org/>.

### **Board Members**

Barb Hipsman-Springer  
Co-President  
330/678-0681

Amie Cajka  
Co-President  
330/688-9545

Dian Weir-McElroy  
Secretary

Nena Hankins  
Treasurer

Call the co-presidents to help with program meetings, to volunteer for any committees or to obtain information about the League's activities and policies.

### **Directors**

Tracy A. Deep-Ross

Paulla Gates

Kathy Hardy

Terrie Tarchinski-Nielsen

Jackie Waltz

Stacy Yaniglos

Directors set policy and make financial decisions. They are involved in program, voter services and the organizational activities of the League.

### **Off-Board Leaders**

Nancy Adams

Land-Use Programs

Sylvia Armstrong, Barb Fox  
& Karen Fuller  
Voter's Guide

Audrey Cielinski Kessler  
Voter & Web Site

Jan Rusnack  
Voter Registration

## League Committee Recommends Support of Kent Schools 6.9 Mill Levy

Kent League members, after hearing a presentation about the 6.9 mill Kent Schools levy and the district's finances in general, concluded that the levy is necessary. A recommendation will be made at the League's April board of directors' meeting that the League support the May primary-election ballot issue.

When members met on March 15 to discuss the issue, League member Stacy Yaniglos asked those in attendance to consider if they were satisfied with the current quality of education in the city. Yaniglos presented information from the Kent School's Community Engagement Project, the district's 2004-2005 state Report Card and the additional 6.9 mill levy.

According to information received from Kent Schools' officials, the levy will cost homeowners \$17.61 per month for property valued at \$100,000. Collection will start in 2007. The levy will keep the district solvent to 2012 and will be used to ensure up-to-date technology, keep class sizes "reasonable," retain quality teachers, and provide textbooks and other learning materials.

League member Nena Hankins then presented financial information as a way for the attendees to consider if the schools were using money wisely and if everything is being done to conserve resources. In one analysis prepared by the district, Kent was compared to Bowling Green and Wooster, which were considered to be school districts similar to Kent. Hankins also reported on revenue and expense data for Kent Schools for the fiscal years ending 2003 through 2005.

The financial presentation concluded with the Kent Five Year Forecast prepared by the Kent Schools in November 2005. It was noted that Kent Schools anticipates a deficit beginning in fiscal year 2007 and a projected negative cash balance in fiscal year 2008.

Copies of the information provided at this meeting are available from Nena Hankins. She can be reached at [nhankins@att.net](mailto:nhankins@att.net) or 330/673-0128.

### **You, Too, Can Be Immortalized with Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton by Donating to the LWVO Phonathon**

When you received the state League's request for a donation to its annual Phonathon, you might not have realized that if you donate \$100 to \$249, you become an Elizabeth Cady Stanton donor; \$500 to \$999, a Susan B. Anthony donor.

Even better, some of those funds will come back to the Kent League. Thanks to Nena Hankins for working on local efforts to encourage donations to LWVO or its Education Fund.

When Kent League members donate to either of these organizations, we receive 15 percent back. If we surpass our 2005 total, we get 30 percent. LWVO reports it has received nearly \$24,000 for the overall campaign. You can make a tax-deductible contribution to the LWVO Education Fund or a donation to LWVO (which is *not* deductible) by writing a check specifically to those organizations and sending it to League of Women Voters of Ohio, 17 South High Street, Columbus, OH 43215-3474.

## Hudson League to Host Annual Theater Party

For a wildly funny evening of short sketch comedies join the Hudson League of Women Voters at their Annual Theater Party Fund-Raiser at the Actors Summit (86 Owen Brown Street, Hudson) on Saturday, April 29, at 7 p.m. Performed live will be David Ives' "It's All in the Timing."

Prior to the performance, Neil Thackaberry will give a "producer's talk" about the play. Door prizes will be awarded and refreshments provided. Tickets are \$25. Tickets bought through the Hudson League benefit the League's voter-service activities.

For reservations, call Barbara Bos at 330/655-7658 or go to the Hudson League's Web site, [www.lwvhudsonohio.org](http://www.lwvhudsonohio.org).

## LWVK to Host Candidate Forum

The Kent League of Women Voters will host a community forum for Portage County commissioner candidates in the May primary on April 20 at Kentway Apartments, 360 E. Summit Street in Kent starting at 7 p.m.

The Democratic commissioner candidates are incumbent Chuck Keiper of Kent and William N. McDowell Jr. of Windham. On the Republican side are Shalersville Township Trustee Larry Solak and Meg Hudson of Aurora.

Information about the 6.9-mill additional continuing levy for Kent City Schools and the 0.4-mill additional five-year levy for the Portage County Health District also will be available.



The Kent League had the great pleasure of a behind-the-scenes tour of WKSU in February. Members (front, from left) Pat Sattler, Gail Pytel and Amie Cajka were in the studio with (back, from left) David Roden, WKSU assistant director of programming for music and cultural affairs, and Bob Burford, public relations director.



League members attending the WKSU tour posed in one of the studios.

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



## LWVK Calendar . . .

### April

**17 Parks & Recreation Update Meeting**

Review and updating of LWVK position on parks and recreation; Roy Smith Shelter House, Fred Fuller Park, 497 Middlebury Road, Kent; 7 p.m.

**19 Kent League Board Meeting**

Pufferbelly restaurant, Franklin Avenue and West Main Street, Kent; 6:30 p.m.; members welcome.

**20 Candidate Forum for Portage County Commissioner**

Kentway Apartments, 360 E. Summit Street, Kent; 7 p.m.

### May

**10 Kent League Board Meeting**

Pufferbelly restaurant, Franklin Avenue and West Main Street, Kent; 6:30 p.m.; members welcome.

**27 Kent League Annual Meeting**

Triple Crown Restaurant, S.R. 91, Munroe Falls; more details in Annual Meeting packet mailing.

