

The **VOTER**

Vol. 51, No. 7

The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

December 2004

League Program Planning to Mix with Fondue Festival

Come add your ideas to the pot for issues you would like to have addressed in 2005. At the same time, dip up some tasty fondue—from gooey



cheese to luscious chocolate—at a planning session and fondue festival on Tues-

day, January 11, at 6:30 p.m. The activities take place at the home of League members Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe, 970 Cottage Gate Drive in Kent.

Program planning is an annual event for local Leagues across the country that typically occurs shortly after the new year begins.

This year's program planning meeting gives members a chance to offer their input and help define state and local issues that should be addressed in the next three years. The issues under discussion typically are among those contained in the state and local League's current program position statements. Last year, the League's program planning meeting focused on national and local issues. Next year, the spotlight shifts to state and local issues.

League members are being asked to decide which positions should be retained, which should be dropped and which need to be updated. New issues—at either the state or local level—may be added. The final

step is to prioritize the areas in which the League should be more active at the state level through 2005.

The meeting is informal and focuses on the exchange of information. All ideas are welcome and encouraged. In the end, there should be a sense of the priority for each state and local issue discussed.

When determining the status of each issue, participants are asked to assign one of three labels: retain (members are committed to the position and will be involved in supporting state and

See PLANNING, p. 2.

Local Services Agency Launches Cartridge-Recycling Fund-Raiser

To raise funds for its Medication Access Program (MAP), Portage County Family and Community Services will be collecting used computer printer ink cartridges.

MAP is an assistance program that works with individuals to reduce the cost of their prescription drugs. Volunteer staff counselors help clients fill

out necessary paperwork and research the best options for each individual. Within the program's first year, 486 individuals received free or reduced-cost medications for a total savings of more than \$750,000.

The collection and recycling of printer cartridges will help

See RECYCLE, p. 3.



LWVK Events Alert . . .

Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Holiday Brunch recognizing newly elected public officials; The Bistro on Main, 1313 W. Main Street, Kent.; speaker: Rick Farmer, fellow, Ray C. Bliss Institute, University of Akron; reservations required

Inside . . .

From the VP's Desk	2
Annual Fund Drive	3
Odds & Ends	3
Holiday Brunch	4
Calendar	4



From the VP's Desk:

Election ... Program Planning... Holiday Brunch... Fund Drive

It was a very exciting and intense election, and it is great that so many of you were directly involved in the voting process as poll workers, observers and many other related duties. We are most fortunate to have such a well-run Board of Elections as we have in Portage County. I worked all day Monday and Tuesday in the board office, opening absentee ballots and recording absentee voters' names, addresses and ballot numbers. There were approximately 7,000 absentee voters in Portage County. We worked in pairs—one Democrat and one Republican in each pair. Nothing could be done unless both partners were present. The Board of Elections staff was great, and they were working 12-hour days. They certainly deserve a big "vote" of thanks from all of us.

Although election time is the time when the League is most visible in the community, it is certainly not the only time we are busy. There are a number of

issues that we will be studying in the upcoming months—including land use and the Kent City Charter. It would be great if as many League members as possible could get involved in program planning in January. (For more on program planning, see the article on page 1.)

Our next event is the League's annual Holiday Brunch, where we will have an opportunity to meet our newly elected public officials. Our speaker, Rick Farmer, is a fellow at the Ray C. Bliss Institute and an associate professor of political science at the University of Akron. We anticipate that he will have some interesting analysis of the recent presidential election. Get your reservations in now! The deadline is December 6. A reservation form is on the back page of this issue of *The Voter*.

Also, don't forget to make a generous contribution to the Kent League during its annual fund drive.

— *Christine*

PLANNING

Continued from p. 1

local League efforts to pursue the position's goals), drop (the position no longer is useful in its present form or is not supported by the members) or update (a study of limited scope should be undertaken in order to evaluate the position in light of new information, changed circumstances and/or conflict with another position).

If a new issue is introduced at a local League's program planning meeting and needs to be studied further, the state League's board reviews that issue and sends study ideas to local Leagues for their consideration.

So mark your calendar for this annual event. Bring yourself and your head full of ideas, and come hungry. The fondue promises to be delicious, and the evening not only fun and productive but also filling.

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

Christine Bhargava, Co-Vice Pres.
330/678-3135

Amie Cajka, Co-Vice Pres.
330/688-9545

Jeanne Schmidlin, Secretary
Nena Hankins, Treasurer

Call the vice 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

Vicki Kline

Kerry Macomber

Linda Martell

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 & Karen Fuller
Voter's Guide

Amie Cajka

Public Relations

Audrey Cielinski Kessler
Voter & Web Site

Gail Pytel

Death Penalty Study

Jan Rusnack

Voter Registration

League Launches Annual Fund Drive for Local Programming

The Kent League's annual finance drive is under way. Contributions help the organization provide a variety of programs and nonpartisan information on candidates, issues and other aspects of voter education and voter service. With a contribution to the Kent League, donors can be assured that their financial support helps increase the vitality of the community.

This year, a total of \$1,900 has been received so far, and contributions are still being accepted. To make your donation, send a check payable to LWVK, c/o Kerry Macomber, 2131 Palm Road, Mogadore, OH 44260.

For those who have already contributed, the League extends

a sincere thank you to the following individuals and businesses:

- Mr. & Mrs. Abbott
- Mr. & Mrs. Aeschliman
- Approved Statewide Title Agency
- Judith Armstrong
- Doris Birkner
- Rick & Jane Bissler
- Dr. William Brinker
- Jessie Brown
- Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal
- Mrs. Cowperthwaite
- Mrs. Robert Dix
- Mr. & Mrs. Ewing
- Dr. Emilio Ferrara
- Mr. & Mrs. Filomena
- John Flynn, Esq.
- Mr. & Mrs. Frisone
- Gerald Graham
- Barbara Harkness
- Mr. & Mrs. Herington

- Home Savings Bank
- Mr. & Mrs. Kegley
- Kent Lincoln-Mercury
- Mr. & Mrs. Kitchin
- Jance Lentz Hatch
- Carol Lockhart
- Mr. & Mrs. Lucht
- Joyce and Dan McCombs
- Clarabel S. McDonald
- Dr. Helen Medley
- Sally Myers
- Mr. & Mrs. Odell-Scott
- Portage Travel Service
- Mr. & Mrs. Seaholts
- Shallenberger & Associates
- Mr. & Mrs. Wallace
- Edward Whitehouse
- Williams, Wesler & Kratcoski
- Dr. & Mrs. Yaniglos
- Arlene Zimmerman

RECYCLE

Continued from p. 1

generate funds to expand program hours and MAP sites. MAP now is scheduling client interviews at four sites: senior citizen centers in Ravenna and Streetsboro and Bryn Mawr Nursing Home and King Kennedy Community Center, both in Ravenna. On November 17, a Kent site opened at Christ Episcopal Church.

To schedule an appointment for medication assistance or to volunteer to be trained as a staff counselor, call Program Director Claudette Rogers at 330/297-3457.

To request a cartridge recycling collection box for a church or workplace, call Lacy Stickle, coordinator of the cartridge recycling program at Family and Community Services, at 330/677-4124, ext. 42, or call Kent League member Nancy Adams at 330/673-6548.

Odds & Ends

New Members

Welcome to new members Barb Fox, Norma Welling and Betty Jane Thompson. Barb has already been very active helping the League with this year's *Voter's Guide*.

Leader Institute Contributions

Recent contributions from the Kent League of Women Voters to the Leader Institute total \$250. The League is a cosponsor of the institute, a group that provides leadership training for high school students. For more information on the Leader Institute, contact Anne Andrews at 330/678-0858.

Kids Voting

The Kent League of Women Voters gave \$250 to the Ohio Newspapers in Education and Kids Voting USA/Ohio's "America Votes Presidential Election" project published in the *Record-Courier* prior to the November election. The project included six installments that ran before the general election and provided resource materials for classroom use. For information on the Newspapers in Education project, contact Jan Rusnack at 330/678-1261 or Karen Fuller at 330/673-0162.

Holiday Brunch
Reservation Form

Saturday, December 11
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

The Bistro on Main
1313 W. Main Street, Kent

Recognizing newly elected public officials

Guest Speaker: Rick Farmer, Fellow, Ray C. Bliss Institute

Registration Deadline: December 6

Cost: \$15 per person

Name _____

Phone _____

Number of Guests _____

Crepes with bacon _____

Crepes without bacon _____

Frittata _____

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 . . .

November-December

— **Finance Drive**

Community and member campaigns.

December

11 Holiday Brunch for Newly Elected Public Officials

The Bistro on Main, 1313 W. Main Street, Kent;
9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; speaker: Rick Farmer, associate professor of political science and fellow of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron; reservations required by December 6; guests welcome; see reservation form at left.

January

11 Program Planning and Fondue Festival

Home of League members Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe,
970 Cottage Gate Drive, Kent; 6:30 p.m.

February

— **Membership Drive**

Details to come.

The VOTER

Audrey Cielinski Kessler, Editor

1638 S. Lincoln Street

Kent, OH 44240-4449