

The **VOTER**

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The Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Kent

February 2005

Kent City Charter Among Local Positions Set for Review

The Kent city charter is among three local positions that program planning participants agreed to review and update this year. Also being updated are the Kent League's positions on parks and recreation and Kent City Schools.

The 14 League members who met at the home of Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe for the annual program-evaluation session also agreed—after indulging in a fondue festival—to retain the state League's positions on government, social policy and natural resources. Participants further agreed to ask the state League to prioritize action on land-use issues, the impact of charter schools on public school funding and abolishing term limits for

state legislators. For information about the state League's positions on these and other issues, go to www.lwvohio.org.

Review of the League's position on the Kent city charter coincides with the city's 10-year review of that document. Toward that end, the city recently appointed a 15-member Charter Review Commission. For details about the League's position on the Kent city charter, see the article on page 3. Reviews of the parks and schools positions coincide with proposed ballot issues for county and Kent parks and Kent schools within the next year.

Positions for Kent city finance, land use and the Portage County justice system were retained. To read about the

League's other local positions, go to www.kent.oh.lwvnet.org/position_statements.html.

The board approved the report of the program planning session at its January meeting. The state results will be sent to the League of Women Voters of Ohio and compiled with reports from other local leagues. A combined report will then be adopted. For the local positions, a report will go to members for review in April. That will be followed by discussion and adoption of the report at the Kent League's Annual Meeting in May or June.

Also, look for meetings on county and Kent parks on March

See *PLANNING*, p. 2.

Date Changed for Membership Event

The date for the February for the League's Membership Event has been **changed to**

Friday, February

18. The gala evening will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the home of Karen Fuller,



1431 River Edge Blvd., in Kent.

Please RSVP to Chris Bhargava at 330/678-3135 or to Karen at 330/673-0162 by February 11. Call Stacy Yaniglos at 330/678-5664 with the names and addresses of guests and prospective members.

League members are requested to bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre to share. Thanks to Stacy and her committee and to Karen for hosting the event at her home.



LWVK Events Alert . . .

Friday, Feb. 18, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Membership gala for prospective new members; home of Karen Fuller, 1431 River Edge Blvd., Kent; RSVP by Feb. 11; bring an hors d'oeuvre to share

Inside . . .

From the VP's Desk 2

League Position on City Charter 3

Calendar 4



From the VP's Desk:

Member Get-Together ... Program Planning ... Annual Finance Drive

When I was growing up in North Carolina, my grandmother would talk about the "dog days" of summer, when it was so hot that even the dogs did nothing but lie around and pant. Well, I guess I'm more sensitive to the "bear days" of winter when all I want to do is hibernate. I'm overwhelmed by all the stuff I need to get done and underwhelmed by my energy level.

What I need is a good, old-fashioned League get-together and, hey, let's do it at Karen Fuller's home on Friday, February 18. I think some new members would energize us all! So come to Karen's at about 6:30 p.m. with a snack to share (I can never remember how to spell hors d'oeuvre) and a prospective member. If you suggested a person to be invited, it would be good if you gave that person a call. The personal contact might make the difference between the person joining the League or declining a great opportunity. Tina Bhargava is preparing a new version of our LWVK-Kent brochure that we can give to new or prospective members.

The January Program Planning meeting was delicious—oops, I mean it was really hard work and very informative. Thanks to Roberta and Lloyd O'Keefe for having us all in their beautiful new home. And a special thanks to Amie Cajka and Paulla Gates for leading the program-development sessions. We got a lot done and had a great time doing it. Now we have our work cut out for us, so to speak. See the article on page 1 to get an idea of the program priorities and what's ahead for us. It's sure to be an exciting year. I encourage everyone to get involved as much as possible with reviews of the League's position statements on topics of interest to all members of the community.

It is still not too late to send in your contribution to the finance drive. Any amount would be helpful and carefully used to further the League's work in our community. Right now would be a good time to write that check. Hope to see all of you at Karen's on the 18th.

— *Christine*

PLANNING

Continued from p. 1

29, a charter informational meeting in April and a school finance update early in 2006. At the parks meeting, join John Idone of the Kent Parks and Recreation Department and Chris Craycroft of the county park system to hear about plans for their pro-

grams and ballot issues in support of park programs.

Thanks to Roberta and Lloyd for hosting the fondue festival and to Paulla Gates and Amie Cajka for organizing the food and program. Those who helped were Tracy Deep-Ross, Jane Rose, Kathy Hardy, Gail Pytel, Christine Bhargava, Stacy Yaniglos and Leona Brown.

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 Position Statement Review: Kent City Charter

The Kent League of Women Voters' position on the Kent city charter is scheduled for updating in April. This review coincides with the city's appointment of a Charter Review Commission (for a 10-year review of the document) that will recommend to city council any changes in the charter to be voted on in the November general election.

In the coming months, the League will be looking at its position as it relates to the pertinent sections of the charter. An informational meeting will be held at the beginning of April and a consensus meeting at the end of April.

The League's position begins with four points, which show its support for the following:

1. Local self-government for the city of Kent.
2. Retention of a charter for the city that allows the form of government, its system of representation and its election system to be determined locally.
3. Continuation of the council-manager form of government for Kent. Full responsibility for the administration of the city should be vested in the manager, the city's chief executive.
4. In conjunction with this form of government, the charter should provide for the appointment of a manager by city council. It also should recognize the subordinate position of staff department heads to the manager. All staff department heads should be appointed by and be responsible to the manager. Department heads, such as the law director and finance director, should not be elected directly by the voters.

The relevant sections from the city charter are as follows and have been copied from the charter as it appears on the city of Kent's Web site (www.kentohio.org):

- *Section 2. Form of Government.* The municipal government provided by this Charter from and after January 1, 1977 shall be known as the "Council-Manager Government" (Amended 11-4-75).
- *Section 39. Appointment; Qualification; Compensation.* The Council shall, by an affirmative vote of a majority of all its members, appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term and fix the

compensation. The Manager shall be appointed solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications. The City Manager need not be a resident of the City or State at the time of appointment, but may reside outside the City while in office only with the approval of the Council (Amended 11-4-75).

- *Section 42. Powers and Duties of the City Manager.* The City Manager shall be the chief administrative office of the City. The Manager shall be responsible to the Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in his or her charge by or under this Charter. The Manager shall have the following powers and duties:
 - (a) Appoint and, when he or she deems it necessary for the good of the service, suspend or remove all City employees and appointive administrative officers provided for by or under the Charter, except as otherwise provided by law, the Charter, or personnel rules adopted pursuant to this Charter. He or she may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to the direction and supervision of the Manager to exercise these powers with respect to subordinate officers in that department, office or agency.
 - (b) Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the City, except as otherwise provided by this Charter.
- *Section 43. Departments Specified.* The administrative departments of the City shall consist of a Department of Law, a Department of Finance, a Department of Service, a Department of Safety, and such other administrative departments as may be determined necessary by Council for the efficient operations of the services of the City in the best interest of the public. (Amended 11-4-75).
- *Section 44. Director of Departments.* The Director of Law, the Director of Finance, the Director of Service, and the Director of Safety, and such other administrative department heads or directors as may be determined necessary by Council shall be under the direction and supervision of the Manager. The Manager shall appoint and may remove all such administrative department heads. (Amended 11-4-75).

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KENT

**Yes! I want to join the
League of Women Voters of Kent!**

\$50 Individual \$75 Household \$25 Student

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Areas of Interest _____

Return this form and your check payable to:

LWVK, 1440 Loop Road, Kent, OH 44240



LWVK Calendar . . .

February

18 Membership Event

Gala evening for new and prospective League members; 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., home of Karen Fuller, 1431 River Edge Blvd., Kent.

March

29 Meeting on County and Kent Parks

Join John Idone of the Kent Parks and Recreation Department and Chris Craycroft of the county park system to hear about plans for their programs and the upcoming ballot issues in support of park programs; 7:30 p.m., Stanton Middle School, 1175 Hudson Road, Kent.

April

— Charter Informational Meeting

Presentation on the review of the Kent city charter; date and time to be announced.

The VOTER

Audrey Cielinski Kessler, Editor

1638 S. Lincoln Street

Kent, OH 44240-4449