From the Co-presidents

Your Co-Presidents have had a very stimulating year! We have learned a great deal about the month-to-month program of the LWVAC, as well as our group’s relationships to the state and national Leagues.

Candidates’ Nights

The League held two Candidates’ Nights recently. On April 15 the Democratic Party candidates for county commissioner, Lenny Eliason and Miki Brooks, appeared together. Then, on April 22, Donald Allen, Bill Johnson and Dick Stobbs, the three Republican Party candidates for the Sixth District Congressional seat participated.

Each candidate gave a three-minute opening statement, followed by two questions from each of the news media representatives. The order was chosen by lot and then the order in which candidates addressed questions rotated.

Next were questions from the audience and finally two-minute closing statements from the candidates.

All of the candidates made statements which were only positive and all were courteous to their opponents throughout the evening. One could not find a finer expression of our political process at its very best.

REFLECTIONS

Matthew Martin, Senior Budget Analyst in the State of Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OMB) addressed the members of the LWVAC on April 6. Martin described the role of the OMB, which includes budget preparation, revenue and debt management, financial reporting for the State, checkpoints for the Controlling Board and implementation control for State accounting, among other duties.

He then described the job of a budget analyst as a liaison between agencies and the administration, monitoring agency expenditures, assisting in agency budget implementation and reviewing agency budget requests and making recommendations for funding.

(cont’d. on p.3)
2010-2011 Schedule

January 5
Consensus Process

January 26
Town Hall Meeting

February 2
LWVAC and LWVS
Program Planning

March 2
Social Security Reform

April 6
Taxation and Finances

April 8
Town Hall Meeting

May 13
Annual Meeting
At Holiday Inn Express on East State Street

Meeting locations are subject to change and will be announced prior to the meeting.

Meetings

LWVAC ANNUAL MEETING

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW
FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 13, 2010 at
Holiday Inn Express on East State Street
Buffet dinner includes appetizers, salad, meat or vegetarian lasagne, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, tea, wine

5:30pm Gathering
6:00pm Dinner
6:45pm Annual Meeting and Awards

Speaker: Sky Cone will talk about changes that occurred in women’s clothing during the decade of their political empowerment—the 1920s

Please make reservation now.
Mail check for $25 payable to League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 5788, Athens, OH 45701
Or call 592-3444 or 696-1249
Please indicate whether you prefer meat or vegetarian lasagne

News

CHECK OUT THE LWVO BLOG
The League of Women Voters of Ohio has launched an online blog at lwvohio.blogspot.com to educate voters and increase the visibility of LWV in the online community. League members are encouraged to visit and comment. In addition, the

state League has a Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Ohio/93356156651 and a Twitter page (http://twitter.com/lwvohio)

2010 COUNCIL DELEGATES ADOPT LWVO BUDGET
On April 14, 2010, Council Delegates adopted the League of Women Voters of Ohio Operating Budget for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year which begins July 1, 2010. The budget was scaled back by 13% over the previous year, with committee members working hard to create a responsible and balanced plan. The adopted budget can be found in the members’ only section of the LWVO website.

LWVO IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD LEAGUE MEMBERS TO SERVE IN THE ‘ LOBBY CORPS’
The Lobby Corps tracks legislative actions, draft and submit written or verbal testimony and assist in the analysis of information. If you are interested in joining or learning more about the Lobby Corps, please contact Ann Henkener at ahenkener@columbus.rr.com
You are also invited to join the Lobby Corps lunch on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. This “brown bag” lunch gathering is a great chance to catch up on public policy, network with other members and gain information from speakers and presenters on a variety of topics.

VOTER SERVICES REPORT
A new collaborative effort with the Athens Messenger allowed us to provide information about the candidates for the party central committees. LWVAC sent out a letter to the candidates with a candidate question and their responses were (cont’d. on p. 3)
Martin told us, also, that the State of Ohio is very conservative in issuing debt.

**Town hall meeting**

A very stimulating *Athens Town Hall Meeting*, entitled “*Athens Third Century: Problems and Practical Solutions,*” was held on April 8. The six challenging issues were: Building Code; Noise; Trash; Signs; Community Vitality and Integration; and Police/Fire Staffing and Safety Issues. For each issue, gathered at a separate table, were a facilitator, a resource person, a note taker and from six to twenty-five citizens who wanted to brainstorm a solution.

At the end of the evening, a brief report was presented about each issue. Finally, there was an opportunity for all to make brief statements about the issues.

**State Taxation and Finance**

The Members’ Consensus meeting on State Taxation and Finance which was to have been held on April 6 has been postponed because we ran out of time. This consensus meeting will be held during the summer, in plenty of time for a November, 2010, deadline from the LWVOhio.

**Annual Meeting**

We now look toward our Annual Meeting on May 13th and HOPE YOU WILL ATTEND to add your voice to our election of Officers, Budget approval and Programs approval. It is also a great time to pay your 2010-2011 dues which fall due on July 1.

**June Athens Town Hall Meeting**

The next Town Hall Meeting will be on June 29. The Mayor and Staff will be answering questions which were presented at the January THM. Further questions for the Mayor are welcome from residents and can be sent to *Athensquestions@gmail.com* or to the League at P. O. Box 5788, Athens, OH 45701

Ellsworth Holden and Carol Patterson

**IN MEMORIUM**

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Margaret Deppen who recently celebrated her 100th birthday! She was an Athens treasure who worked for so many years for the students and the residents of our community. We extend our sympathy to her family and to her many friends.