From the Co-presidents

Our fall social events were a huge success. I was personally moved by the wonderful turnout at the Actors' Moveable Theater production of *A Piece of My Heart*. Not only did the event provide a social evening, but it served as a fund raiser as well.

The following week we gathered at the beautiful Lamborn's Art Studio for our membership tea. It was another enjoyable evening for members and guests and we welcomed Beverly Flanagan and Louise Steele as new members.

As we move into 2010 we need to continue our efforts in fund raising and membership. We also need to renew and strengthen our committee structure. I know some of you would like to be more directly involved in our planning and programs.

Let me hear from you at cpatte1@columbus.rr.com and we can find the right spot for you.

Carol Patterson, Co-president

The League has been a key participant in the recent series of Athens Town Hall Meetings and we intend to continue this participation in 2010. The next one is scheduled for January 26. The core of the agenda is an opportunity for people to make two-minute comments on any topic and to address their remarks either to the entire community or to City government. Eighty minutes is set aside for these comments.

The League of Women Voters of Ohio is preparing a statement on State Taxation and Finance, for which local Leagues will be asked for their consensus before too long. During the last two board meetings, I introduced to the board a process for choosing among alternatives, using Social Security reform as an example. The method will be developed further at the January board meeting (at my home), in preparation for the consensus question.

Hope to see you there.

Ellsworth Holden, Co-president

2009-2010 Officers
Co-Presidents: Ellsworth Holden & Carol Patterson
Co-Vice Presidents: Dana Carlson & Sarah Watling
Secretary: Mary Wryst
Treasurer: Mary Costello
Board Members: Tim Foran, Katherine Jellison, Elaine Mather, Debbie Schnieding, Karen Harvey & Muriel Grim

Calendar for 2009-2010

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<td>Athens Town Hall Meeting</td>
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<td>October 6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td>Candidate and Issue Forums</td>
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<td>November 17</td>
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<td>January 5</td>
<td>Board Meeting and Development of Consensus Process</td>
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<td>Athens Town Hall Meeting</td>
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For questions about anything you see in the newsletter or for meeting information, email athensleagueofwomenvoters@gmail.com
Changing How We Choose Our Supreme Court Justices

"A Forum on Judicial Selection: A Time for Action" was held Nov. 19 and 20 at the Ohio Judicial Center and Center of Science and Industry (COSI) in Columbus. The event was convened by Ohio Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund. The forum participants agreed to build a coalition to support amending the Ohio Constitution to replace the current system for election of Supreme Court Justices. The amendment will create a process by which Justices are appointed initially and then stand for reelection. Chief Justice Moyer said that early next year a plan will be sent to the partner organizations for consideration. While the specifics have yet to be developed, the plan will have the following characteristics:

1) The appointment process will be open and transparent.
2) Any nominating commission will be representative of the diversity of Ohio’s population and will include multiple appointing authorities.
3) Some form of a public education component will be included.
4) Retention elections will ensure that voters still have a voice.

"The elements discussed today of an appointive-elective system will go a long way toward making the process more transparent and open," said Meg Flack, president of the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

LOCAL NEWS

In Remembrance
We are deeply saddened by the death of Pat Brooks, a long time member of League. Our thoughts go out to husband Chuck and Pat's entire family.

Local Meetings
LWVAC Board meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month starting at 5:30pm
When held on the same date, programs will follow at 7pm. Location varies and will be announced.

January Meetings
This month, the consensus process discussion (see Ellsworth’s message on page one) will take place in conjunction with the board meeting January 5 at Ellsworth’s home.
The League is sponsoring the Athens Town Hall Meeting on January 26 at 6:30 p.m. at The Athens Community Center.

For History Buffs
Did you know that there is a LWV collection in the archives at Alden Library? Sue Foster told co-president Ellsworth Holden so. She also has a substantial collection of old LWV annual booklets. Sue was president of our Athens League in 1969-1971 and 1995-1997.

Opportunities to Participate/Volunteer
1. Last June the State of Ohio settled a lawsuit in which the LWV was one of the plaintiffs. The complaint chronicled deficiencies in Ohio election administration for a number of years. The Ohio League is asking local Leagues to monitor compliance with the settlement by county boards of elections, for a period of five years. If you would like to participate in this compliance process, please let your co-presidents know.
2. Are you pretty computer savvy? Do you like to create e-documents? We need some volunteers to help put together the Voters Guide and maintain our web site. You can do as much or as little as you want and we will show you exactly how our software works. Our computer needs can be done by Friends of the League, so if you know any non-members who would like to help us out, please let us know. Contact us at 696-1249 or athensleagueofwomenvoters@gmail.com.

**Newsletter Online**
Beginning with this issue we will post the newsletter on our web site [http://www.seorf.ohiou.edu/~voters](http://www.seorf.ohiou.edu/~voters) in case you’d like to refer to it in the next few weeks and have already misplaced or recycled your copy. We would also like to cut back on the number of paper copies we need to send via the U.S. Postal Service. If you would like to receive an electronic rather than paper copy of the newsletter, please send a message to that effect to athensleagueofwomenvoters@gmail.com.

*Newsletter Editing: send contributions to cstepp@athenscity.k12.oh.us*