



Oberlin Voter

Oberlin Area League of Women Voters

Fall 2008 Issue

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COME TO THE LWVOA CANDIDATES' NIGHT

Monday, September 13, 7-9 pm
First Church of Oberlin

Who: Both candidates for House of Representatives
The State Representative
Ninth circuit judge candidates
Several other judges
All county commissioner candidates
Several county officials

Issues Presented:

City issue
Five state issues

Robin Jindra, Moderator for Questions and Answers

Voters Guide available to all

Refreshments

President's Letter

With early voting underway in Ohio, we are truly in the throes of the national, state, and local elections. Through heroic efforts on the part of the Voters Guide Committee, an electronic version of the guide was posted on the Oberlin College internal web server in time for students to review before loading the first college-sponsored bus to the Lorain County Board of Elections.

The entire Lorain County ballot can be viewed at the BOE website, along with a thorough explanation of early voting. Remember that no one who claims to be a registered voter in Lorain County will be refused the privilege of voting. Provisional ballot voting is an option for voters who are challenged for any reason. Provisional voting requires filling out several forms; your ballot will be counted only after your status as a registered voter for your Lorain County precinct is validated.

Alison Ricker

imPACT Town Hall Meeting Focused on Ensuring Judicial Independence

Oberlin's second imPACT Town Hall, held Tuesday September 30, 2008, focused on the U.S. judicial system and need for election reform for Ohio judges. Opening remarks by Oberlin Municipal Court Judge Thomas A. Januzzi ranged from the definition of the judiciary role in the U.S. constitution to specific examples of campaign contributions to judges that call into question the ability of that judge to remain fair and impartial. He closed by describing former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's three-point plan for reforming judicial elections:

1. Replace the partisan election of judges with a merit-selection system, or at least with a nonpartisan system in which the candidates do not affiliate with political parties.
2. Set up campaign-conduct committees to educate voters and the media about the criteria people should use to select judges.
3. Distribute voter education pamphlets to provide accurate and unbiased information about the qualifications of a judicial candidate.

Judge Januzzi's talk was preceded by small group discussions on one of 11 questions generated by the League of Women Voters of Ohio (LWVO).

The second half of the Town Hall was devoted to honoring this year's awardees, recognized for their community service and civic engagement. The Reverend David Hill of First Church, UCC, presented an imPACT Award to **Marjorie and Floyd Ramp** for decades of leadership in community service projects emphasizing international cooperation, responsible stewardship of natural resources, social and environmental justice and integrity in politics. **The Reverends Mary and Steve Hammond** received the second imPACT Award from LWVOA Treasurer Judy Riggie who cited their activism in peace and race relations efforts, along with outreach to the college students and the community through initiatives such as The Bridge, Hot Meals, the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and Juneteenth. The entire **Oberlin High School Interact Club**, involving 163 students over the past seven years, was honored with an imPACT Award, presented by OHS Principal William Baylis. Mr. Baylis gave special thanks to club advisor Donna Shurr, describing the club's collaboration with the Oberlin Rotary Club and their volunteerism with Oberlin Hot Meals, Santa's Attic, Safety Town, Oberlin Heritage Center summer camps and many other local, regional and worldwide efforts. Assistant Superintendent John Schroth was on hand to

extend congratulations on behalf of the administration. Club President Mary Enos and seven of her fellow students of the current 29-member group received the award on behalf of Interact. **Ken Stanley**, who was out of the country during the 2007 imPACT Town Hall, belatedly accepted a 2007 award for leadership in the Oberlin Votes campaign and was recognized for his current work on the DuBois literacy and early education initiative.

Nearly 60 people participated in the Town Hall meeting, which was co-sponsored with ACLU Northern Ohio Chapter and NOW Oberlin Chapter. We are supported financially by the League of Women Voters of Ohio through a grant from the Joyce Foundation of Chicago. The imPACT Web site is chock-full of more information, sure to get you inspired to be "politically accountable." Note especially the **SPEAK UP!** icon on the web site, which leads to a very easy way to contact elected officials at the state and national level. Check it out! www.ohioimpact.org

Alison Ricker

iSalud! Gives an Eye-Opening Look at Cuba's Health Care System

"How does Cuba do it?" was the question on everyone's mind at the end of the screening of *iSalud!* on September 18 at Oberlin Public Library. Dr. William Keck, the film's co-producer and LWVOA's special guest for the evening, answered, "For 50 years, they've had a single-minded political will." Dr. Keck, an Akron resident, public health physician, and teacher, has been to Cuba many times over the course of 30 years, and is perhaps the closest thing to an American expert on the Cuban health care system. His wife, Ardith, serves on the LWVO Board along with Mary van Nortwick. The film forcefully conveys the differences between the Cuban model of community-based medical training and practice, focused on prevention, with the "illness industry" that is the U.S. system.

Gary Benjamin of Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio (UHCAN, a League coalition organization) discussed the "Fix it Now!" project which aims to bring health care issues to the front burner in State and National politics and keep them there until our elected representatives make meaningful changes to our broken system.

For those who missed the screening, but would like to see the film, it is available on DVD at www.saludthefilm.net.

Judith Weiss

Membership Report

We welcome five new members to LWVOA.

Alice Kohl, has taught English as a Second Language to adults.

Glenn Linehan has joined his wife Katherine as a member.

Ann and William Pilisy. Ann is an elected Precinct Committee member for Oberlin. She and her husband William moved to Oberlin in 2004.

Bob Williams is a produce grower who is involved in the peace movement.

Current members, please check your records and if necessary, send your dues to Judy Riggle, 354 N. Prospect St., Oberlin 44074. (Dues are \$58 for individuals and \$80 for a household.)

Joanne Norenberg

Voters Guide

Carol Ganzel, June Goodwin, Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Judy Riggle, Linda Slocum, and Dina Schoonmaker carefully planned the Voters Guide and saw it through to completion. Raquel Ortiz Rodriguez, an instructor at LCCC, was the translator for the Spanish edition, with the editorial assistance of Mary Ashbrook. Elizabeth Rumics and Maxine Houck provided additional editing.

Many of the 90,000 copies distributed throughout the county in early October were inserted in local newspapers. *El Latino Espresso*, published by *The Morning Journal*, included many of the 12,000 copies of the Spanish edition. Ken Carpenter and Ben Simonson at *The Oberlin News-Tribune* were instrumental at completing the project.

The task of putting together the Guide was "sweetened" by \$2000 from the Nord Foundation, \$2000 from Oberlin College, and \$500 from the Hispanic Fund of the Community Foundation.

Three Ways to Vote

You may use any one of these:

1. Absentee Ballot. If you have requested one, mail it back to the Board of Elections (address below) to be received by Nov. 4. You may also hand deliver it.
2. Go in person to the Board of Elections, located at 1985 North Ridge Road East, several blocks west of route 57. You can do this through Monday, Nov. 3, 8:30-6:30. (Sat. 9-12)
3. Go in person to your polling place on Tuesday, November 4. Bring valid identification with you. (See list below)

Alison Ricker

Valid Identification

1. A current/valid photo ID, such as Ohio driver's license, state ID card, gov't ID. The ID must show name and address
2. A military ID with voter's name.
3. a copy of current utility bill, bank statement, or gov't check or document showing voter's name and current address.

Alison Ricker

Voter Registration

Work on 2008 Voter Registration began in early summer. Elizabeth Aldrich organized voter registration tables at Juneteenth and Family Fun Fair as well as daily registration from Labor Day through October 6. Many volunteers put in long hours with the result that we delivered 191 voter registration forms and 58 requests for absentee ballots to the Board of Elections.

Linda Slocum

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, October 13. **CANDIDATES' NIGHT.** First Church.
7-9 p.m.

(see p. 1 for details)

Saturday, October 18. **FIFTEENTH ANNUAL FAMILYFEST.**
LCCC, noon to 6 pm.

Tuesday, November 4. **ELECTION DAY. BRING PICTURE
I.D. AND A NEIGHBOR.**

(See p. 3 for details)

Membership Registration Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual Dues: \$58.00

Two Member Household: \$80

(Please note that dues paid to the League of Women Voters are not tax deductible. Donations to the League of Women Voters Education Fund are tax deductible.)

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters Oberlin Area (LWVOA)

Mail to JUDY RIGGLE, 354 N. PROSPECT ST., OBERLIN, OH 44074