

The Voter



Newsletter of
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF BOWLING GREEN OHIO
May 2017

PO Box 873 Bowling Green OH 43402 www.wcnet.org/~lwvbg

65th Annual Meeting of League of Women Voters Bowling Green

Saturday June 3, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Juniper Hall, Stadium View
1700 Juniper Drive, Bowling Green

Check-in and fellowship begins at
8:30. Breakfast served at 9.

Guest speakers: **Rose Hess** and **Lori Young** of the East Side Residential Neighborhood Group. They will talk about the history and activities of their group and their connection to the Community Action Plan.



- Enjoy a delicious breakfast catered by Flo Klopfenstein
- Celebrate the program year just completed
- Catch up with old friends and meet new members
- Support the Joan Gordon League of Women Voters Scholarship Fund by buying a raffle ticket for a gift basket or gift cards. Raffle winners will be drawn at the meeting. See page 9 for more information.
- Elect officers and board members for 2017-19 (see page 2 for nominees)
- Approve the budget for 2017-18 (see pages 2 and 3 for proposed budget)

Please let **Joyce Kepke** know you are coming. 419 353 2061 or kepkej@dacor.net. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday May 31.

65th Annual Meeting LWVBG, WEDNESDAY June 3, 9:00 a.m. at Juniper Hall, Stadium View. 1700 Juniper Drive, Bowling Green. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m..

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Executive board members, 2-year terms 2017-2019

President - Lee Hakel
 VP Membership - Jennifer Karches
 Secretary - Randye Kreischer
 Board Member - Marcia Suter
 Board Member - Martha Fether
 Board Member - Barbara Moses
 Board Member - Judy Knox
 Board Member - Janet Parks
 Nominating Committee Chair for 2018 - Lynn Ackerson

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BG
 PROPOSED ED FUND BUDGET
 2017-2018

EDUCATION FUND

<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>2017-2018 PROPOSED</u>	<u>4/30/17 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2016-2017 BUDGET</u>	<u>6/30/16 ACTUAL</u>
Rosie Haas Fund-Pub.Officials Guide	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 250.00
Prior Yr End Balance ##	\$ 1,550.50	\$ 541.29	\$ 541.29	\$ 569.34
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 1,700.50	\$ 741.29	\$ 741.29	\$ 819.34
<u>INCOME</u>				
Finance Drive-Direct to LWVUS	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 1,245.00
Other				\$ 118.66
Rosie Haas annual allocation	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		
Adjust to LWVUS due to Haas	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		
TOTAL	<u>\$ 2,950.50</u>	<u>\$ 2,001.29</u>	<u>\$ 1,991.29</u>	<u>\$ 2,183.00</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>				
State PMP 25% X \$25. @64/68/65 members)	\$ 406.25	\$ 400.79	\$ 412.50	\$ 368.12
Nat'l PMP 25% X \$31 @ 64/68 members)	\$ 503.75		\$ 511.50	\$ 496.00
Communication - Web Site				
Education:				
Candidates' Forum	\$ 500.00		\$ 525.00	\$ 527.59
Guide to Officials-Rosie Haas	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Other Voter Service-Candidate Forum Ad			\$ 350.00	
Public Programs				
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 1,460.00</u>	<u>\$ 450.79</u>	<u>\$ 1,849.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,441.71</u>
Fund Balance per LWVBG	<u>\$ 1,490.50</u>	<u>\$ 1,550.50</u>	<u>\$ 142.29</u>	<u>\$ 741.29</u>
		##		

Joan Gordon Scholarship

2012-2013 Balance		\$1,639.00
2013-2014 Contributions		\$ 945.00
2013 Scholarship Award		\$ (750.00)
Balance 6/30/14		\$1,834.00
2014 Scholarship Award Paid (8/2/14)		\$ (750.00)
Contributions as of 6/30/15		\$ 410.00
Balance 6/30/15		\$1,494.00
2015 Scholarship Award 9/9/15		\$ (750.00)
Current Year Contributions as of 6/30/2016		\$ 1,255.00
Net FYTD		\$ 505.00
BALANCE 6/30/2016		\$1,999.00
LESS: 2016 Scholarship Award 7/1/2016		\$750.00
Contributions 7/1/16-3/31/17		\$755.00
Estimated balance 6/30/17	\$ 2,004.00	\$3,504.00
Estimated contributions FYE 6/30/18	\$ 750.00	
2017 Scholarship Award 7/1/17	\$ (750.00)	
Estimated balance 6/30/18	<u>\$ 2,004.00</u>	

LWVBG
2017-2018
PRELIMINARY BUDGET

ACCT DESCRIPTION	17-'18 PROPOSED BUDGET	ACTUAL 4/30/17	16-'17 BUDGET	15-'16 BUDGET	
REVENUES:					
Ed Funds Contributions	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$
Finance Drive Revenue	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,428.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$
In Kind Donations	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00			
Interest Inome	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.40	\$ 1.35	\$ 40.00	\$
Meeting Revenue:					
Annual Meeting (30 @ \$15.)	\$ 450.00	\$ 12.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 350.00	
Fall Brunch (30 @ \$15.)	\$ 450.00	\$ 432.00	\$ 570.00	\$ 350.00	\$
Other					
Member Dues	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 3,794.00	\$ 3,563.00	\$ 3,455.00	\$
Miscellaneous Revenue					\$
Political Parties Contributions	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$
Scholarship Contributions	\$ 750.00	\$ 755.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 370.00	\$
TOTAL REVENUES.	\$ 14,004.00	\$ 13,683.40	\$ 8,029.35	\$ 7,905.00	\$
EXPENSES:					
Advertising				\$ 260.00	
Communication:					
Annual Report	\$ 225.00	\$ 265.26	\$ 110.00	\$ 160.00	
The Voter					
Delegate - National Convention (even years)	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Delegate - State Convention (odd years)			\$ 250.00		
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 140.00	\$ 150.00	\$
Education:					
LWVUS Ed Fund	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 1,245.00	\$ 1,620.00	\$
Member Program Costs	\$ 50.00	\$ 13.45			\$
Public Programs:				\$ 50.00	
Candidates Forum('17 local candidates)	\$ 100.00	\$ 553.46	\$ 565.00		\$
Other	\$ 80.00	\$ 73.50			
MOP					\$
Regional Meeting					
Membership/Leadership Development					
Voter Service:				\$ 200.00	
Guide to Public Officials	\$ 750.00	\$ 724.20	\$ 710.00		\$
In Kind Advertising-Voter Guide	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00			
Voter Service-Other		\$ 498.00			
Finance Drive Expense	\$ 100.00	\$ 117.15	\$ 80.00	\$ 350.00	\$
Meeting Expense:					
Annual Meeting	\$ 460.00		\$ 300.00	\$ 400.00	\$
Fall Brunch	\$ 496.00	\$ 729.59	\$ 480.00	\$ 400.00	\$
Other					
Membership Drive	\$ 200.00	\$ 201.95	\$ 260.00	\$ 150.00	\$
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 100.00		\$ 25.00	\$ 35.00	
Office Expense:					
Miscellaneous	\$ 25.00	\$ 124.50			\$
Postage	\$ 82.00	\$ 81.20	\$ 223.00	\$ 85.00	\$
Web Site	\$ 115.00	\$ 114.76	\$ 107.00	\$ 107.00	\$
PMP Nat'l Dues(.75X\$31@65 Members)	\$ 1,511.00	\$ 2,160.00	\$ 1,534.50	\$ 1,488.00	\$
PMP State Dues .75X(\$25@65 Members)##	\$ 1,158.00	\$ 1,221.73	\$ 1,237.50	\$ 1,200.00	\$
Scholarship Award	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 13,452.00	\$ 13,888.75	\$ 8,017.00	\$ 7,905.00	\$
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 552.00	\$ (205.35)	\$ 12.35	\$ -	\$
## Less 5% early pmt					

OBSERVER REPORTS

April 3, 2017 City Council Finance Committee Meeting April 3 2017 reported by Jean Romans

Meeting start: 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Chairperson Bob McOmber, Scott Seeliger, Mike Aspacher.

Statement from the Chair: There will be no lobby opportunity this evening. Presentation will take about 30 minutes and the panel may have questions. Reminder that at 7:00 p.m. the Council meeting will start. There will be a Meeting of the Whole at the second meeting of the Council in May. McOmber emphasizes the need to not rush, but come to a consensus. A quote from the Council meeting regarding the upcoming budget decisions, "the Council's decision on this issue might be the most important decision council will make this year."

Brian Bushong presented the budget present and future. Between 2008 and 2017, the City including the mayor, the council, administrators and employees, worked together to reduce City costs. This included the reduction of 20 staff members through attrition. There were no lay-offs of personnel and expenditures were cut over time by \$2 million.

The current financial issue does not appear to be temporary. The city is behind its 2017 revenue targets so far this year. Using reserves is not a sustainable solution, according to Brian Bushong. One option could be a redistribution of the income tax collections so more is put into the general fund. Currently the fund receives 37.5 %. This would probably affect water and sewer rates (25% of the income tax). Another option would be to cut services such as police and fire staffing. Police and fire staffing combined are the two largest departmental line items in the general budget. Residents could be asked to increase the income tax which is currently at 2 percent. Bushong said "privatization of solid waste management (trash and recycling) would save \$692,865.00 a year."

BG's fiscal shortfall currently is \$627,056. Downsizing options include eliminating the arborist position at the risk of losing our status of "Tree City", and private waste management but retaining the 4 employees and retraining them for other services.

McOmber: "Don't do anything at the next two Council meetings, just let this simmer awhile, give people a chance to talk to their council members about what they think and express opinions at lobby visitation during council meetings." □

Bowling Green City Council Meeting April 3, 2017 reported by Jean Romans

Start time: 7:00 p.m. All members were present.

Special Recognition: Mayor Edwards recognized the month of April as the Fair Housing Month. Mike Marsh was appointed to the Tax Board. Joan Callecod and Gaylyn Finn were nominated and approved to serve on the Tax Board.

Lobby Visitation: no speakers were signed in to speak

Official Reports:

Mayor: Edwards complimented Brian Bushong on the presentation at the meeting of the Finance Committee on the health and condition of the general fund.

OBSERVER REPORTS *continued*

A letter was sent to Senator Sherrod Brown regarding the Nexus pipeline for additional clarification.

There will be a pinwheel event at Wooster Green for child abuse in Ohio.

T. Gavarone communicated with Mayor Edwards that Bowling Green received recognition for one of the best towns to live in after graduation.

Municipal Administrator: talked about cars parking on the grass and called for an executive session regarding employee pay.

Planning Director: no report

Parks and Recreation: summer program is on web site, will be in the paper next week; Bicycle Commission continues work on bike routes; ribbon cutting for mosaics at the Community Center will be held on May 9 at 4:00 p.m.; adult Easter egg roll coming up soon; splash pad creatures have arrived for summer fun at the pool.

No reports from City Attorney, Utilities Director, or Public Utilities.

Council Committee Reports:

McOmber – Talked briefly about the Committee of the Whole that met prior to the Council meeting. See report for the Committee of the Whole that are included. Requested a Committee of the Whole for May 15th to discuss and make some budget decisions.

Jeffers – Planning Commission has plans for the Court Street Celebration coming up to include the introduction of bike lanes, food, games and family fun.

McOmber brought up legislation regarding #3662 – “Welcoming Resolution that was table at the last Council meeting b/c of the wording. Wording has been changed to read “Resolution proclaiming Bowling Green as a welcoming, safe and inclusive community: A call for diversity, human rights social opportunity and economic development.” Voted all in favor. Passed and adopted. □

Joan Gordon League of Women Voters Scholarship

The annual scholarship of \$750 was presented on April 26 at the BG High School Awards Ceremony to **Elizabeth Webb**. Elizabeth participates in Bobcat Marching Band, BG High School Model United Nations, BG High School Drama Club, and BG High School Improv Troupe. She is on Wood County Teen Court and was a member of the BG Chamber of Commerce High School Leadership Class in her junior year. She has also participated in phone banks and canvassing for the Ohio Democratic Party in fall 2016. She hopes to attend Ohio State University and major in public affairs/political science.

OBSERVER REPORTS *continued*

Bowling Green City Council Committee of the Whole Meeting March 20, 2017 reported by Jean Romans

Start time: 6:00 p.m.

Topic: 2016 exterior housing evaluation survey prepared by the Wood County Health District

The city was divided into neighborhoods roughly corresponding to the wards. Evaluation of properties was based on 14 primary and 10 non-primary categories.

The primary categories are: roofs, siding conditions, stairs and railings, windows, foundations, drive-ways, public walkways, chimneys, porches, doors, accessory structures, soffits and roof edging, private walks, and exterior sanitation.

The non-primary categories are: paint, attached garage, grading/drainage, yard maintenance, siding type, gutters/downspouts, garage condition, dumpsters, starlings & pigeons, and presence of an address. Houses that are substandard in 2 or 3 primary categories are classified as deficient.

Houses that are substandard in 4 or more primary categories are classified as neglected.

Results: total houses surveyed--5,546; total primary deficiencies--795; deficient houses—130; neglected houses—7; houses with zero deficiencies—4,919

Compared with 2011: number of properties with deficiencies increased from 504 to 627 (24.5%); properties with zero deficiencies decreased from 4,989 to 4,919 (1.4%); total deficient houses increased from 86 to 130 (51%); total neglected houses had no change, remaining at 7.

S Rowland: Which houses were repeat offenders?

Response: The 7 houses from 2011 that were rated as neglected are not on the neglected list for 2016.

B McOmber: Deficient houses in 2011 totalled 85 while in 2016 the total was 130. An increase was expected since there are only 20 new homes in that time period between 2011 and 2016. One would expect some deterioration of existing houses over that time. □

Bowling Green City Council Meeting March 20, 2017 Reported by Jean Romans

All members were present.

Special Recognition: Mayor Edwards recognized the Human Rights Commission for their actions to improve our community over the past 27 years since they were established. He discussed Resolution #3662 to be given a first reading later in the meeting—whether to add LGBT and disabilities to the resolution. Council President Aspacher presented a change regarding moving Lobby Visitation to an earlier point in the meeting. Hearing resident concerns at the beginning of the meeting may give Council members an improved view of resident concerns that Council could address.

Lobby Visitation: 2 people spoke in favor of the added language to Resolution #3662.

Mayor's Report: The design committee for Wooster Green will meet on March 23 with the Wooster Green Steering Committee. Dick Newlove will serve as honorary co-chair of the steering committee. Sharon Hanna will be fund-raising chair. There is continued concern about the proximity of the proposed Nexus pipeline to the water treatment plant.

Parks & Recreation Director Report (Kristin Otley): Happy spring. Soccer will begin soon. Brown Bag Lunch concert series continues on specific Fridays. Save the date for the Adult Egg Scramble.

No reports from Municipal Administrator, Planning Director, City Attorney, Utilities Director and Public Works Director.

OBSERVER REPORTS *continued*

Council Committee Reports: Discussion about Nexus pipeline project.

Gordon—asked about having a public meeting to get experts in one room to answer questions.

Jeffers—person from Nexus is “difficult”—possibility to have a Nexus representative to attend an open public forum

McOmber—wants experts in geology and engineering with knowledge, not opinions, and have panel discussion, not a debate.

Jeffers—citizens want assurances from Nexus that BG will continue to have good water, not with opinion but based on science.

Mayor Edwards will start the process to put together such a forum.

First Reading was given to:

--Resolution #3662 proclaiming Bowling Green as a welcoming, safe and inclusive community: a call for diversity, human rights, social opportunities, and economic development. There was discussion on adding language including LGBT and disabilities. Resolution tabled to next meeting for re-wording.

--Ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green during the fiscal year from January 1 through December 31, 2017. Suspended Second and Third Readings and Adopted.

--Ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts and/or participate in State of Ohio purchasing programs for the purchase of vehicles and equipment as well as the trade-in, transfer or sale of vehicles and equipment being replaced and/or no longer needed for municipal purposes.

--Ordinance related to utility funds.

Second Reading was given to:

--Resolution expressing support of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) efforts to establish U.S. bicycle routes. Also given Third Reading and adopted.

--Ordinance relating to city fees and fees charged for services.

Third Reading was given to:

--Ordinance relative to salaried employees not subject to overtime pay. Adopted.

--Ordinance authorizing the Municipal Administrator and Utilities Director to seek qualifications and/or advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction, and other services relating to improvements for State Route 25/64 pavement rehabilitation and utility improvements. Adopted. □

Bowling Green Board of Education Meeting March 21, 2017 Reported by Jean Romans

All members were present.

Special Recognition: BG High School Girls Bowling Team for being 2017 NLL Champions and Sectional Champions; BG High School Boys Bowling Team for being 2017 NLL Champions; BG High School Cheer Team for being 2017 OASSA Division II Mount Cheerleading State Champions for the third consecutive year; BG High School Swimming Team members who qualified for the state meet; BG High School Girls Basketball Team member Kendall Glandorff for being NLL Player of the year plus other

awards. Also recognized were teachers Amy Dible and JoBeth Gonzalez for being BGSU TEA Fellows classroom stewards.

There were no public comments.

There was a presentation by the Buehrer Group presenting plans to renovate the BG High School locker room and resurface the track oval. Projected costs are \$373,000 for the locker rooms and \$75,000 for the track. Both projects were approved unanimously by the Board.

The **Showcase Presentation** was by Kenwood Elementary School about the Buddy Benches. Buddy Benches have been installed at ALL elementary schools as an effort to “welcome” students who don’t seem to have a friend. An explanation was given and video of benches in use was shown. Funding came from the Ostrowski family, Girl Scout troops, and counselors.

Superintendent’s Report:

1. A survey of “What Does the Community Want” for school buildings was mailed to 2000 residents throughout the school district. About 300 have been returned (as of March 21)—about 15%. There are about 300 on-line responses. Results will be tallied and reported at the next school board meeting in April.

2. Facilities: following a wind storm (80 mph) some repairs are required.

3. The Middle School has 700 students. The building was designed for 2 grades but is housing 3 grades. What should be done regarding the plan to increase the size of the middle school, which was part of the original plan when the middle school was constructed?

4. The Job Fair at BGSU was successful last year. BG Schools picked up several teachers then and will repeat the process again this year.

The Board approved employment, movement from probational to provisional and adjustments in pay of support personnel and 2 new transportation substitutes. The Board also approved resignation, retirement, and leave requests for certificated personnel (teachers).

The Board accepted gifts in the Adopt-a-Door program. There are a total of 197 doors covered by donations. The Board approved the following student field trips:

- FFA students to attend Ohio FFA State Convention in Columbus
- BGHS Band to attend Marching Camp in Grayson Kentucky
- Madrigals to perform at Victoria Theater in Dayton and King’s Island.

The Board went into executive session and came out without taking action. □

The photos below were taken at LWV Ohio State Convention which took place May 5-7, 2017. LWVBG member Kris Vessey is ending a 6-year stint on the state Board and outgoing LWVBG president Lee McLaird was just elected to the state Board. Photos by Marilyn Levinson.



Kris Vessey and Lee McLaird



Lee McLaird and Chris Carson, president of LWV US.

RAFFLE

to raise funds for Joan Gordon
League of Women Voters Scholarship



First Prize: basket of goodies from Farm Girls Vintage Boutique
donated by the Board and Farm Girls Vintage Boutique

Second & Third Prize each consist of two \$25 gift cards for restaurants
gift cards donated by Lubrizol

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Raffle tickets available at LWVBG public programs

March 7 at 7 p.m. at Wood County Library meeting room

March 22 at 7 p.m. at Wood County Library meeting room

May 8 at 7 p.m. at Wood County Library meeting room

Tickets also available from Ellen Dalton edalton@bgsu.edu

Winners will be drawn at LWVBG annual meeting June 3, 2017.