

The Voter



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

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

The Trump Train: How the 45th President Won a presentation by Dr. Melissa Miller

Tuesday March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Wood County District Public Library, 251 N Main St, BG
meeting room

The Trump Train: How the 45th President Won: TUESDAY MARCH 7, 7:00 p.m. at Wood County District Public Library meeting room. Light refreshments.

Dr. Melissa Miller gave such a good presentation last year on Money in Politics that we asked her to help us understand the November 8, 2016 election results. Her talk will cover the following points:

- The historic nature of the 2016 presidential election – regardless of the outcome
- Why the polls failed to predict a Trump victory
- The contours of the Trump coalition and who joined it
- The factors – large and small – that motivated Trump supporters

Dr. Melissa Miller belongs to the political science department at BGSU. Dr. Miller is an expert on American politics with a specific focus on elections and voting behavior, women in American politics, public opinion, and the media. She got her undergraduate degree from Cornell University, a masters in public policy from Harvard University, and a PhD in political science from Northwestern University.



Please plan to attend and invite friends.

OBSERVER REPORT

Bowling Green City Council Meeting January 17, 2017 reported by Jean Romans

All City Council members were present except for John Zanfardino who was on vacation.

The Mayor officiated at the swearing-in of the new deputy fire chief, Doug Isaacson. He mentioned Martin Luther King day celebrations, and clarified a Letter to the Editor in the Sentinel-Tribune regarding electric rates. Comparison of Bowling Green to Toledo is not equivalent. Toledo's electric bills show only kw hours while the Bowling Green Municipal Utilities bill shows all aspects of usage. (Editor's Note: The Letter to the Editor being referenced is no longer available on the Sentinel-Tribune website.)

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter was asked about loss of financial assistance from the state.

Planning Director Heather Saylor highlighted the Community Action Plan public meeting at the Wood County Courthouse scheduled for Tuesday February 7, 2017.

Parks & Recreation Director Kristin Otley reported on the Brown Bag music series beginning January 20 at the Simpson Building. There will be seven lunchtime concerts this year, and 2017 is the eleventh year of the Brown Bag music series which is a collaboration with the BGSU College of Musical Arts.

Utilities Director Brian O'Connell reported at the new solar field located east of Dunbridge is up and running. It can generate up to 14 megawatts on a sunny day.

During Lobby Visitation, a citizen spoke of the Nexus pipeline project and the need for more geological study relative to the Bowling Green Fault and proximity to the Bowling Green Water Treatment Plant. There were numerous speakers supporting condemnation of hate actions targeting Musiims & others. Wendy Chambers talked about major events being held February 10-12 as part of Winterfest with the additional name of Chillabration.

First readings were given to--

a resolution authorizing the city attorney to petition the Wood County Commissioners to change township lines;

a resolution approving revisions to the Parks and Recreation Department Section of the Comprehensive Master Plan of the City of Bowling Green;

a resolution authorizing the mayor to file an annual application under the Community Development Block Grant: Entitlement Program;

a resolution authorizing the mayor to file a four year capital and operating plan for 2017-2020 with the Ohio Department of Transportation for grants through the US Department of Transportation;

an ordinance authorizing an agreement between the City of Bowling Green and the Wood County Regional Airport Authority;

an ordinance authorizing the municipal administrator to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for sidewalk improvements, pavement striping, deicing salt, and improving streets, alleys and other public ways in the City of Bowling Green;

an ordinance amending the Zoning District Map of Bowling Green for 510 E Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B- Transitional Central Business District zoning;

an ordinance amending the Zoning District Map of Bowling Green for 516 E Wooster Street from B-2 General Commercial to B- Transitional Central Business District zoning;

an ordinance authorizing the municipal administrator to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts and/or participate in State of Ohio or Federal purchasing programs for the purchase of vehicles and equipment as well as the trade-in or outright sale of vehicles and equipment being replaced and/or no longer needed for municipal purposes.

Second reading was given to a resolution adopting the Bowling Green Fire Division 5-year Strategic Plan.

continued on page 3

Mental Health Concerns in Older Adulthood

a presentation by

Lisa Myers, LISW-S
Director of Social Services, Wood County Committee on Aging

March 22, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Wood County Public Library meeting room

This public program is a joint effort of the LWVBG committees on Mental Health and on Senior Concerns.

Seniors and their family members are encouraged to attend.



Lisa is a Licensed Independent Social worker. She is currently the Director of Social Services at the Wood County Committee on Aging, where she has worked for the past 8 years. Lisa obtained her Bachelors of Science in Social Work degree from Bowling Green State University and her Master's in Social Work from The Ohio State University. Lisa also currently co-chairs the Wood County Suicide Prevention Coalition and Wood County Elder Forum. Lisa has a background that specializes in working with mental health clients and older adults. □

Observer Report

continued from page 2

Third reading was given to an ordinance establishing interim zoning for property at 16415 Brim Road, recently annexed to the city as petitioned for by Linda St Arnaud, of R-2 Single Family Residential zoning. Public hearing is scheduled for 2/16/17 at 6:45 p.m.

Receiving all three readings and passage was a resolution condemning violence, hate speech and discrimination targeting Muslim people and expressing solidarity with the Muslim community and all those targeted for their ethnicity, race or religion. □

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Monday March 22, 2017 7 p.m. public program on mental health concerns for senior citizens 7 p.m. at Wood County Public Library

Monday May 8, 2017 public meeting on education 7 p.m. Wood County Public Library meeting room

Saturday June 3, 2017 9-11 a.m. annual meeting details TBA

CONSENSUS MEETING ON PRIMARY ELECTIONS

About 25 members attended the Souper Supper (delicious food was enjoyed by all) and consensus meeting. We plugged through all the questions provided by LWVOH, with lively discussion, and the results were submitted to LWVOH to be considered along with those from other Leagues across the state. The LWVOH board will likely recommend a new position on primary elections for consideration at the state convention in May.

The responses from our League are given below for your reference.

Question #1: What do you believe is the MORE important purpose of primary elections? (Choose one.)

a. A way for political party members alone to choose their nominees (partisan)

b. A way for all voters, regardless of political party membership, to narrow the field of candidates (non-partisan)

Would your answer to the above vary, depending on the level of government for which the election is being held? Yes No

Comment: There was some confusion about whether it was the candidate or the voter who was Partisan or Non-partisan.

Question #2: If you answered yes in the second part of #1, indicate your preference before each of the following levels of government, by placing P (partisan) or NP (nonpartisan) in the space provided.

P a. U.S. House and Senate races

P b. Statewide office races (e.g. Governor, Auditor, Treasurer, etc.)

P c. OH House and Senate races

NP d. Countywide office races (Commissioner, Recorder, Prosecutor, etc.)

NP e. City, Village or Township races

Question #3. What principles should a good primary election system encourage? (Check as many as you believe important and/or achievable)

a. Increase voter participation

b. Enfranchise independent or third party voters who otherwise have no voice

c. Preserve strong political parties

d. Strengthen the viability of third parties

e. Simplify administration of elections

f. Lessen partisan polarization

g. Reduce costs of elections

h. Result in more competitive general elections.

i. Other: _____

Comment: some of our group favored option g.

Question #4: Ohio's current system for local, county and statewide offices is a semi-closed, partisan primary election, in which the voter may request any party ballot at the time of the election, and the voter may be challenged if he/ she changed party affiliation.

Do you want to keep Ohio's current system?

Yes No

In some states or local jurisdictions, major systemic reforms have been introduced or recommended, which are listed below. If you answered NO above, then which of the following would you prefer? (You may choose more than one.)

a. A closed, partisan primary election, in which only registered members of the political party conducting the primary are permitted to vote, with no independent or crossover voting permitted.

b. An open, partisan primary election, in which any registered voter may choose to vote any party's ballot without having to be a member of that particular party.

c. An open, nonpartisan, "top-two" primary, in which ALL candidates appear on the same primary ballot but only the top two vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation, advance to the general election

d. No primary - a nonpartisan general election is held, and possibly a runoff election if no candidate achieves a majority of the votes. (A voter chooses one candidate)

e. No primary - "ranked choice voting" or "instant runoff voting" in the general election, a voting system in which the voter ranks candidates in order of preference.

f. No primary - "approval voting," a voting system in which each voter may vote for (or "approve" of) as many of the candidates as the voter deems acceptable, and in which the winner is the candidate receiving the most votes.

Comment: For option c, our group favored allowing top 3 or 4 candidates to run in the general election. Two seems too restrictive.

Comment: For option e, our group favored using ranked choice voting for a non-partisan open primary. Basically combining option c and option e.

A very successful public program took place on February 7 at Wood County Public Library in the meeting room. Titled "Womens Marches--Sharing Our Stories", the program featured a panel of six women who participated in marches in Washington, D.C. or Ann Arbor, Michigan on January 21, 2017. Panel members were Joyce Kepke, Marilyn Bowlus, Joanne Navin, Heather Paramore, Sandy Rowland, and Martha Fether. A number of women in the audience had also participated in marches. After the panel members spoke about their experiences and how they were impacted, there was a lively discussion about what the next step should be. Thanks to Kay Sergent for the idea of putting together this program and thanks to Martha Fether for coordinating the panel.

An excellent story about the program written by Jan Larson McLaughlin can be found at www.bgindependentmedia.org.

Below and on the next page are some photos from the event, taken by member Marilyn Levinson. Others can be found on the LWVBG Facebook page.



Left: Joyce Kepke (standing), Marilyn Bowlus, Joanne Navin, Heather Paramore



Right: audience listens intently.

Photos by Marilyn Levinson. Other photos can be found on the LWVBG Facebook page.



Lee McLaird (standing), Joyce Kepke, Marilyn Bowlus, Joanne Navin, Heather Paramore, Sandy Rowland, Martha Fether



Heather Paramore (standing), Joyce Kepke, Marilyn Bowlus, Joanne Navin, Sandy Rowland, Martha Fether

OBSERVER REPORT

Bowling Green City Council meeting February 7, 2017 reported by Jean Romans

All members were present.

The Mayor's Report: The solar field east of town is now fully operational, generating 19.6 megawatts which can power 3,000 homes in BG. All contractual commitments with the State of Ohio are completed. The Fire division has worked with BGSU including students to decrease the number of fire calls to campus. Mayor Dick Edwards commented on how well the Bicycle Safety Commission is doing.

Council member Bruce Jeffers asked Planning Director Heather Saylor about zoning ordinances. The cost is between \$100,000 and \$300,000 and would take 18-36 months. Council will "slow down" on zoning modifications and wait for the Community Action Plan feedback, to find out the needs of residents and let that be the driver for zoning updates.

Municipal Administrator Lori Tretter thanked city workers and Bob McOmber for years of work for the city. She announced grants for the Police division--\$10,867 for in-car video cameras for all 18 cars, and \$46,000 for digital evidence training. They will be sharing this expertise, once trained, with area communities.

Public Works Director Brian Craft reported that the intersection of S. Main & Gypsy Lane is fully functional--the lights have battery backup which is good for 8-10 hours. There are plans for a new light at W. Poe and Fairview.

continued on page 7

Lobby Visitation: A citizen, a geologist and an attorney spoke about the Bowlin Green Fault near the water treatment plant & the potential for problems if there is drilling into the fault, such as for the proposed Nexus pipeline project.

First reading was given to--

a resolution authorizing the submitting of a proposal(s) with the Ohio Department of Transportation for a 5339(B) grant through the US Department of Transportation Federal Transit Administration, as authorized under the federal transit law and funds available from the Ohio Public Transportation Grant program and executing a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation upon grant proposal acceptance.

a resolution authorizing the Municipal Administrator to participate in the Interlocal Purchasing system for the purpose of purchasing machinery, materials, supplies or other articles and building supplies.

an ordinance providing supplemental appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Bowling Green during the fiscal year from January 1-December 31, 2017.

an ordinance amending and adopting Section 33.01(G) of the Codified Ordinances of the city of Bowling Green regarding salary schedule established.

an ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to request qualifications and enter into a contract or contracts for professional services associated with a Geographic Information system (GIS) joint use pole audit.

an ordinance authorizing the Utilities Director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts for Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection projects.

an ordinance amending and adopting Section 152.20(H)(1) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Bowling Green regarding nuisance conditions prohibited.

an ordinance authorizing the utilities director to advertise for bids and enter into a contract or contracts and/or participate in State of Ohio or Federal purchasing programs for the purchase of vehicles and equipment as well as the trade-in or outright sale of vehicles and equipment being replaced and/or no longer needed for municipal purposes.

Second readings were given to resolutions and ordinances to which first readings were given at January 17 meeting--see page 2.

Third reading was given to a resolution adopting the Bowling Green Fire Division 5-year Strategic Plan.

Removed from the table and adopted was an ordinance establishing interim zoning for property at 16415 Brim Road, recently annexed to the city as petitioned for by Linda St Arnaud, of R-2 Single Family Residential zoning. The public hearing had been held. □

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.