



THE VOTER

President's Podium

Dear League Members and Friends,

Our recent Voter Awareness Night highlights a crucial element in a democracy—**civil interaction between candidates and voters**.

The LWV of Tallmadge is proud to hold such events. I send a special thanks to Sue Yatsu for her outstanding efforts in organizing our 2010 VAN. Also, thank you to everyone who voted in the general election.

The topic of finance and taxation was addressed at our November board meeting. I encourage all members to review the consensus vote.

In addition, the topic of sunshine laws will be discussed at our general meeting. I look forward to seeing you then.

In League,
Julia Spiker

Holiday Breakfast Brunch

December 4 at 9:30 a.m.

Train Car at Erie Station Grille.

Cost = \$12

RSVP to Susan Schunk by December 1

Via phone (330-633-6254)

or by email (sschunk555@gmail.com).



Kim Ray is preparing a game for us.
Bring a non-food item for Good Neighbors - e.g. soap, paper products
There will be a brief Board meeting at 9 a.m. prior to the brunch.

A yellow-bordered box with a sun icon at the top and bottom. The text inside reads:

SUNSHINE LAW
*And related topics -
Re: public records access, privacy & media relations*

KSU Professor Tim Smith

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, November 18

6:30 p.m.

Community Room
Tallmadge High School

Meet Our November Speaker

Prof. Timothy D. Smith joined the faculty of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University in 1986 after working for 19 years for the Akron Beacon Journal, leaving as managing editor. He teaches reporting and media law courses and is the legal advisor for all student media.

In addition to his teaching duties, Professor Smith serves as a newspaper consultant, an expert witness in media law cases and as a lecturer on media relations, libel, invasion of privacy and public records issues.

He has bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from The Ohio State University and a law degree from the University of Akron. He is the founder and director of the Ohio Center for Privacy and the First Amendment, which specializes in access-to-government issues, headquartered at KSU. He is a member of the American and Ohio State bar associations and a founding member of the National Freedom of Information Coalition.

Check It Out!

- ✓ If you wish to **receive minutes** of TLWV Board meetings, please let Leslie Zaynor know via e-mail: zaynl@cgfs.org
- ✓ **Deadline** for the next issue of **THE VOTER** is **November 30th**.
E-mail information, features, announcements & articles to:
Editor Nancy Wack at njtpw@yahoo.com

Voter Awareness Night Follow-up

By Sue Yatsu

We had another successful Voter Awareness Night this year thanks to our many volunteers. We had an outstanding turnout with about 250 people in attendance.

Once again the teachers at Tallmadge High School promoted the event. Thanks to government teachers Sue Langford and Jon Shomo for encouraging their students to attend. Thanks to Lisa Wilson for promoting the event in her Criminal Justice class.

Special thanks to League, Chamber, and other volunteers: Julia Spiker, moderator; Nancy Wack – welcome and introduction; screeners – Craig Ray, Barb Mattern and Nancy Treichler; runners – Karen Morgan and Jill Stritch; timekeepers – Susan Schunk and Rose Ann Crawford; refreshments – Peggy Manson and Barb Mattern; LWVT information table – Kim Marfy and her daughter, Gia; Sue Ellen Hughes and others who helped setup and tear down; special thanks to Leslie Zaynor for help with sign in and Megan Raber for programs, name tags, signs and placards.

LWVUS President Calls for Open and Civil Elections

Our examination of this year's election has brought to light two major players during this election season that demand our immediate attention: [secret money and incivility](#).

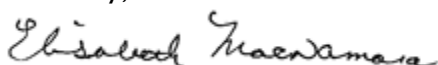
When the Supreme Court ruled on the *Citizens United* case earlier this year, huge amounts of secret money were turned loose in American politics. Congress' failure to act and pass the DISCLOSE Act only added to this problem.

As a result, not surprisingly, voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads this year but didn't know who paid for many of them. Leagues across the country have been calling on their elected officials to support the DISCLOSE Act, which would require corporations and unions to disclose the dollars they spend in elections.

With the 2012 presidential election season having already begun on November 3, the League will continue to address the other major issue this election season — incivility. The tone of the 2010 campaign exhibited a disturbingly new low in American politics. Not only was this evident in the expensive advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse.

As we have for the past 90 years, the League will continue to help our fellow citizens discuss the issues in a civil and fact-based way and fight for transparency, accountability, and disclosure in America's elections! Voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy.

Sincerely,



Elisabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

Consensus On Finance Proposals

Our local League responded to the request from LWVOhio that local leagues discuss and weigh in on the proposed updates to its State Government Finance and Taxation positions.

A "consensus call" went out to all members and immediately following the November board meeting, **Kim Ray** led a most informative and interesting discussion of the proposals. Because of her financial background, Kim was able to provide us with much needed insight into the complexities of the state's tax laws. **Nancy Treichler** will share our consensus points with LWV as well as the commentary we want noted.

As the state of Ohio, under new leadership, looks to increasing revenue to offset deep deficits, the changes will allow LWV to study and adopt positions on issues and proposed legislation. It will be challenging at best for Ohio legislators to find a way to balance the budget and reduce deficits without cutting services and to attract new businesses by creating an economically competitive environment without shifting more of the burden to citizens, particularly low income families, by increasing taxes.

Tallmadge
 League of Women Voters
 PO Box 435
 Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Officers

President Julia Spiker
 Vice President Nancy Treichler
 Treasurer Barb Mattern
 Secretary Leslie Zaynor

Elected Board

Sue Ellen Hughes
 Viona Smith
 Carmen Thompson

Nancy Wack

Appointed Board

Marlene Fire
 Susan Schunk
 Sue Yatsu

Ex Officio Members

Kim Marfy –Membership Chair
 Tammy Shomo – Past President

LWV of Ohio Liaison

Ardith Keck

The Board of the Tallmadge League of Women Voters meets on the first Saturday of the month. General membership meetings are on the third Thursday of the month September thru November and February thru April. December and May meetings are held on Saturday. No meetings are scheduled in June, July, August or January.

THE VOTER

Published monthly by the Tallmadge League of Women Voters

Contributions to our local THE VOTER are always welcome. Please e-mail articles by the 30th of each month to Nancy Wack @ njtpw@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!!
For more information, visit
www.lwvtallmadge.org

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Dates

November 18	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: Sunshine Law – Dr. Tim Smith		
December 4	Holiday Brunch	9:30 a.m.	Erie Station– Rose Car
	<i>Brief Board Meeting @ 9 a.m., preceding Brunch</i>		
January	NO MEETING THIS MONTH		
February 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	To be confirmed
February 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Library Meeting Room
	Topic: Disaster Preparedness & Response		
March 5	Board Meeting	9:00 a.m.	To be confirmed
March 17	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: Charter Review Commission (tentative)		
April 2	Community EXPO	10am.–4p.m.	Tallmadge Rec Ctr.
April 14	General Meeting	6:30 p.m.	THS Community Room
	Topic: African Sky Speaker – Cherie Wade		
May 21*	Board Meeting	TBD	
	ANNUAL MEETING	11:30 a.m.	River Brasserie in Cuyahoga Falls
	Speaker: Judge Linda Teodosio		

**Note change in date.*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING.....from Nancy Wack

Every November, the re-enactment of the first pilgrim Thanksgiving in 1621 is played out in school pageants across the U.S. Thanksgiving and all the trappings of turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie remain almost exclusively an American tradition.

Thanksgiving did not become a national holiday until George Washington declared that a day should be set aside for citizens to give thanks for the blessings bestowed on the fledging country by the Almighty. Some historians opine that this was as much a political move as anything. The country needed its own traditions and customs to distance it from its English roots and create an American identity. Further, Thanksgiving was a way to remember that the pilgrims fled England for religious freedom. Doesn't it make you wonder what today's politicians would do if the idea of a "thanksgiving day" came before them? "Chew" on that around your holiday table. As for me, "pass the gravy" and thank you for the freedom and bounty we have as American citizens.



**Please join us for our annual
League of Women Voters of Trumbull County
Orientation Breakfast
Saturday, November 20, 2010**

*Guest Speaker:
Jean Kozarnek
2nd Vice President, League of Women Voters of Ohio
"League Building Blocks"*

9:30 a.m.
Doors open at 9:00 a.m.

**Lake Vista Community Center
303 N. Mecca Street
Cortland, OH 44410**

Registration Form

I will be attending the LWV of Trumbull County Orientation Breakfast. Enclosed is my check for \$12.50 made payable to the LWVTC.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone # _____ Email Address: _____

_____ I am a member of the League of Women Voters of _____
(Name of League)

_____ I will be a guest of _____ League of Women Voters Member.

Send reservations and check (made out to LWVTC) to: LWVTC, P.O. Box 161, Fowler, Ohio 44418. Or call Phyllis Savelle at 330-856-6272 for reservations & pay at the door. Any reservation not cancelled by November 17, 2010 will be invoiced. Reservations must be made no later than **November 15, 2010**.

Any additional information is available on our website at <http://www.oresites.com/oh/lwvtc/>