

The V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
VOLUME 88, ISSUE 6



DECEMBER, 2011

Election Volunteers...Stand Up and Take a Bow!

Election season is the Super Bowl of the League of Women Voters. Our game plan each year is to serve the voting public in both Montgomery and Greene Counties. We do this by publishing the *Voters Guide*, hosting cable television interviews, moderating/hosting a variety of candidate forums and through our Speakers Bureau. This year we brought back the election hotline and developed the new and exciting Voters Guide LIVE event.

Beginning in mid-August, running right through Election Day, the League office is abuzz, humming and, for the most part, running like a well-oiled clock. It is when we are at our best and there is no finer time to be a League member.

We are, primarily, a volunteer organization which makes all that we accomplish even more amazing. If you have never participated in election season, please sign up for next year! Working with League members, chatting about issues, talking with candidates and interacting with voters is our democracy at work. There is much ado about the ugliness of politics but elections are the hallmark of America's government. Be part of it! What League does is not about hype and sound bites; it is participating in our election process at the grassroots level and serving our community by providing non-partisan information about candidates and issues. It's interesting, educational and fun!

It does however take time, a valuable commodity in busy times. So I want to recognize the most valuable players for this season. Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!

Cable TV Volunteers: Pat Bradley-Falke, Sharon Harmer, Vivienne Himmell, Gary Leppla, Ellen McCloskey, Sally & Millard Mier.

Candidate Forums: Pat Bradley-Falke, Carolyn Bridgman, Susan Byerly, Kathy Farmer, Sharon Harmer, Vivienne Himmell, Gary Leppla, Sandie Mants, Sandy Nearing, Mario and Monica Schultz.

Hot Line Volunteers: Nancy Adkins, Joan Albrecht, Carolyn Bridgman, Barb Buddendeck, Evelyn Ferguson, Judy Gerhard, Sharon Harmer, Ellen McCloskey, Lee Mills, Sandy Nearing, Ruth Price, Anwyl Scott and Ann Wilger.

Speakers Bureau: Kathy Farmer, Sharon Harmer, Vivienne Himmell, Janis James, Gary Leppla, Patsy Thurin and Pat Torvik.

Voters Guide Data & Distribution: Nancy Adkins, Joy Artman, Sarah Deets, Bea Delph, Darryl Fairchild, Kathy Farmer, Carol Graff, Mary Haller, Sharon Harmer, Vivienne Himmell, Sandie Mants, Ellen McCloskey, Lucy Ann McKosky, Peg Schulz and Kaye & Robert Stealey.

Voters Guide LIVE: Nancy Adkins, Laurie Fanning, Vivienne Himmell, Val Lee, Mario, Ruthe Meadow, Sandy Nearing, Peg Schulz, Brenda Whitney.

Redistricting... What does it mean? Where does it stand now?

In late September, the Apportionment Board adopted district lines for the Ohio House and Senate Seats. As you have heard, the Chair of the House State Government and Elections Committee established 14 new congressional districts for the next decade. Passage of that legislation would have resulted in the most contorted districts ever seen in Ohio. It created 68 county fragments, put seven counties in three or more districts, divided nearly every major city and packed Democrats into four districts in an attempt to guarantee a 12-4 delegation in Congress for the next ten years, even though Ohio is known as a swing state because it is almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

Why should voters care?

* Redistricting affects every issue because who gets elected to office shapes all the legislation that affects our lives, from taxes to education to public safety.

* It is critical to have an open, transparent and accountable redistricting process to ensure voter's interests – not politicians' self-interest – are represented.

* As is already evident in recent elections many seats in primarily Republican or Democratic districts go unchallenged, leaving voters no real choice to choose their representatives.

What's happening now?

Groups, including the state and local Leagues, are collecting signatures to put a referendum on the 2012 ballot to prevent the new district lines from going into effect. These organizations are also proposing an Amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would take the responsibility of drawing district lines out of the hands of politicians and create instead an Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission. This Commission will meet and establish boundaries for each of Ohio's state legislative and congressional districts in order to provide for the fair and effective representation of the citizens of Ohio and would consist of twelve members.

The League is proud to be part of this pending legislation. Stay tuned for more details.

General Fund

**2011- 2012 Leadership
Circle Members**

President (\$10,000+)

Dayton City Paper*

Vice President (\$5,000+)

Talbott Tower Management*

Cabinet (\$2,500+)

Dickey Fund

Governor (\$1,000+)

Chuck Fisher*

Roger B. Himmell, CPA*

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Premier Health Partners

Miami Valley Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital

Atrium Medical Center

Upper Valley Medical Center

Time Warner Cable

Senate (\$500+)

Kendall Printing*

McGohan Brabender, Inc.

Sinclair Community College**

University of Dayton **

President's Office

Political Science Department

House (\$250+)

Anonymous

Dayton Metro Library

Timothy Kambetsch, Director

Carolyn Farrow-Garland

Five Rivers Metro Park,

Rebecca A. Benna, Exec. Director

Deborah & Bruce Feldman

Dr. & Mr. Ronald L. Fletcher

Herbert Lee

Ellen McCloskey

David A. Neuhardt

Linda & Miles Schmidt

Judy & Tom Thompson

University of Dayton, Fitz Center

All elected officials, political entities and candidates are invited to contribute to the LWV. Names appearing on this list do not constitute an endorsement by the LWV which is nonpartisan.

*In-kind contributions

**In kind and monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

Thank you to the Sponsors of the Voters Guide for Supporting the Mission of the League and Integrity Of the Voters Guide

DP&L Foundation, Dayton City Paper, Dayton Business Journal, the Dayton Foundation, McGohan Brabender, Montgomery County Board of Elections, Nancy Adkins, Frieda & Mike Brigner, Susan Byerly, Jo Columbro, Kathy Farmer, Dona Fletcher, Judy Gerhard, Susan & John Hesselgesser, Vivienne Himmell, Mike Houser, Matt Joseph, Sandie Mants, Viola Matyas, Rita Peterson, Shirley Reynolds, Monica Schultz, Bill & Peg Schulz, Tom & Judy Thompson, Pat Torvik, Patsy Thurin, Brenda Whitney, Carol Winslow, Penny Wolff.

Education Fund

Current Major Contributors

Anonymous (\$1,750)

Charles Berry (\$5,000)

The Dayton Bar Association Foundation (\$1,000)

The Dayton Power & Light Foundation (\$3,000)

The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (\$6,000)

Notice for League 'Snow birds': Please let us know if you will be out of town for an extended time during the Winter months. We can then hold your newsletters and the upcoming membership book until you return. Thanks.

WELCOME 2011 NEW MEMBERS (in order of joining)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Barbara Collins | Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts |
| Kim Ann Senft-Paras | Sue Shay |
| Cristina Mier | Sylvia Jacob |
| Sylvia Miller | Walter Grady |
| Kay High | Mike Bock |
| David Bodary | Susan Bodary |
| Dr. Kathryn Kondretas | Kate & Meg Schultz |
| Donald Swanson | Sandie Mants |
| Carolyn Leman | Alice Dinicola |
| Kevin P. Carton | Shannon Hounshell |
| Ruth F. Owens | |

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

LWVGDA, We're Not for Nothing.....

By Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director

Never have I been more proud to be a member of our League. This election season we were faced with a challenge for the printing and distribution of the *Voters Guide*. The *Dayton Daily News* was willing to continue its partnership with our League only if, in turn, the League would allow political ads to be printed under the cover of the *Voters Guide*. If we didn't agree, we would end a 40 year partnership, easy distribution of the Guide and the \$5,000 sponsorship Cox News annually donates to our Leadership Circle.

Without hesitation, our Board made the decision to end the partnership; the nonpartisan mission of the League and the reputation of the *Voters Guide* could not be compromised. Then, not only did we do what the League does, we did exactly what the community expected, we found another way to produce and distribute the Guide. Within 8 weeks we had the funding, compiled the Guide, sent it off to the printer and partnered with the *Dayton City Paper* for delivery. Additionally, we ordered 20,000 extra copies that were distributed to every library and government center in Montgomery & Greene Counties.

Miracle? No. Reputation? Absolutely! For 91 years the League of Women Voters GDA has provided this community with nonpartisan voter services. The *Voters Guide* has been a local tradition and a respected resource for well-over 40 years. If we had ever doubted the community understood the mission of the League or appreciated the services we provide, those doubts are now solidly put to rest. This community rallied around our dilemma and supported us financially, physically and historically.

Many times I have said I wish all of you could see the League the way I get to see the League. I have the privilege of talking to candidates, listening to voters, chatting with funders and working with the best volunteers a girl could hope for. As members, we have always understood and believed in our mission; now we know the community believes in our mission as well. No sweeter way to turn lemons into lemonade than with this resounding affirmation that we are not for nothing! The work we do is respected and important, our leadership is strong and our reputation, solid.

My sincere thanks to the **Dayton Foundation, Ginny Strausburg and Dayton Power and Light, McGohan Brabender, Mike Houser, the Montgomery County Board of Elections, Frieda and Mike Brigner, Judy Gerhard, John Hesselgesser, Matt Joseph, Viola Matyas, Shirley Reynolds, Bill and Peg Schulz, Tom and Judy Thompson** and our **Board of Directors** who stepped in to support the integrity of the *Voters Guide*. Also, very special thanks to **Sandie Mants** who heroically served as *Voters Guide* Editor and our Office Manager **Patsy Thurin** who kept all the balls in the air, the pieces in place and the coffee pot full.

And last but not least, I would completely be remiss not to thank the generations of women who came before us, who shattered the glass, broke the ground and made the path we walk on. It is now ours to tend and preserve and in 2011 we did just that.

President's Message

Hello all. Election Day is finally behind us. I want to extend a personal thanks to everyone who worked on the *Voters Guide* this year. Given that we had to shift gears in mid stream, the result was nothing short of phenomenal. A special thanks goes to Sandie Mants for her great job. And a grateful thank you to *City Paper*, who eagerly stepped in when we had to back away from the *Dayton Daily News*. And to everyone who donated money to the effort. The result was something that we can point to with great pride.

I'd also like to thank everyone who worked on the Election Hotline. This is a vital service to the community, which was all too evident on Election Day when I heard several people at my polling place state that they didn't know what precinct they were in. Fortunately, the poll workers were able to help them.

While we can breathe easier now, there's still much going on with League, especially in the next few months. In December, there is a panel discussion of the federal health care law, which should be very informative. January will see our traditional Program Planning meeting, to be held at the Dayton Art Institute (by the way, if you haven't seen the Norman Rockwell exhibit, it's wonderful).

February will be an important meeting on Fracking. I'm sure many of you have seen the natural gas industry commercials that obliquely refer to it but don't give any details. Come to our meeting to hear what it's all about.

This only goes to show that now, more than ever, League is important

League of Women Voters of Ohio, Education Fund Voter Questionnaire

November 2011 General Election

1. Did you request an absentee ballot? Yes_____ No_____
2. If yes, did you receive your ballot in a timely fashion? Yes_____ No_____
3. Was your board of elections open additional days or hours in the week before the election? Yes_____ No_____ Don't Know_____ If yes, what hours?_____

For people who voted at their polling place on election day:

4. How long did you have to wait to vote?_____ If the wait was more than 15 minutes,
 - a. What time of day did you vote?_____
 - b. Were any machines down? Yes_____ No_____
 - c. Describe any other circumstances contributing to the delay_____
5. At your polling place:
 - a. There is only one precinct in my polling place. Yes_____ No_____
 - b. I was directed to the correct precinct by poll worker. Yes_____ No_____
 - c. The precincts were clearly labeled. Yes_____ No_____
6. Were you asked for identification? Yes_____ No_____
7. What ID did you use?_____
8. Were there any high school or college students working at your polling place? Yes_____ No_____
9. Were the polling place and voting machines accessible to handicapped voters? Yes_____ No_____ If there was a problem, please describe it_____

Other comments about your voting experience_____

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

Name (optional)_____

Address_____

May we contact you?_____

Please Clip and send to LWVO Voting Questions

17 South High Street, Suite 650

Columbus, OH 43215-3413

State News You Can Use...

Sharon Harmer, LWVO Board

Oh My! The fall elections of **2012** could be overwhelming! Not only will national candidates be chosen, but there are likely to be a number of issues on the state ballot. It is required that the voters determine whether there is to be a Constitutional Convention. Additionally, it is likely that issues on redistricting, employment, when life begins and other topics will be up for a vote. Keep an eye on the news this spring!

LWVO is in a coalition on redistricting, which sponsored the submission of citizen drawn maps last spring. That coalition is looking at putting a Constitutional Amendment on the 2012 ballot which would make redistricting a nonpartisan procedure. LWVO is supporting this both financially and personally. More news will come as things proceed.

We are also doing things that are a follow-up to our 2009 lawsuit. All members (and the public, if they are interested) are asked to turn in a survey about their voting experience. Please find and fill in the survey included in this edition of the VOTER and mail to: LWVO/EF, 17 South High Street, Suite 650, Columbus, OH 43215-3413.

Additionally, local League boards will be asked to interview their Board of Elections regarding how the election went. The LWVO will interview the Secretary of State on the fall election statistics. We are not letting the issue fall by the wayside!

Other items from the November LWVO board meeting included discussions on the budget, coalitions, Clean Air Promise, committee activities, human trafficking study, local League activities, 2013 convention, investments and resignation of the Executive Director. Janet Kershaw was appointed 1st V.P. and Gail Pytel the Budget Chair. It was a busy meeting.

Mark Your Calendars

Board Meeting Schedule

December : No Meeting

January 17, 2012 (Tuesday) 5:30 pm

February 20, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

March 19, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

April 16, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

May 21, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

June 18, 2012 (Monday) 5:30 pm

Note: All meetings are held in the Talbott Tower, 10th Floor Conference Rm. 1000

Dec. 6, 2011 - 6:00 pm St. Paul's Evangelical

Lutheran Church, 219 Wayne Ave.

Healthcare: What the Law has Changed...

What Happens Next?

Volunteer Opportunities,

Don't be Shy!

We have opportunities that can be once a week, once a month, or once a season.

Office: Mailing Committee, Data Base Updates, Occasional Projects

Funding and Development: Help plan an event, brainstorm ideas, volunteer to assist at an event

Voter Services: Candidate Forums, Candidate Interviews, Voters Guide a few hours, a few days, you decide.

Board Positions: Board Secretary, Vice President of Program

Off-Board Positions: Budget, Historian

Be part of something special! Now more than ever, League of Women Voters!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Voter is published monthly, bi-monthly by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA), Talbott Tower, Suite 1208, 131 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45401-1703. Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Phone (937) 228-4041 and FAX: (937) 228-4104; E-mail: league@lwvdayton.org; web address: www.lwvdayton.org
 President: Jo Columbro Editorial Board: Vivienne Himmell, Sharon Harmer, Penny Wolff Editor: Monica Schultz

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
Talbot Tower, Suite 1208
131 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OHIO 45402-1703

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 105

Return Service Requested

We are on the web
www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter
Education and
Action on Issues

HEALTHCARE: WHAT THE LAW HAS CHANGED... WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ?

WHEN: December 6, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
239 Wayne Ave, Dayton

PANEL

BRYAN BUCKLEW

President and CEO, Greater Dayton Hospital Association

MARK CHILSON

Executive V.P and General Counsel, Care Source

SCOTT McGOHAN

CEO McGohan Brabender, Inc.