PASSING THE TORCH

In 2010 our League began the countdown to 100 years of women getting the right to vote; we did that by developing Dangerous Dames of Dayton. This event was named in honor of the Dayton suffragists who were picketing in Cooper Park, giving soap box speeches on street corners, and parading down Main Street. They were also the ladies who opened the door to our League in 1920. The local media dubbed them “dangerous to polite society.” We kind of liked that misnomer, and Dangerous Dames of Dayton was born.

We kicked off the first big event with Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist, Ellen Goodman. I don’t remember much about the activities surrounding that first soiree, but I do remember we had enough gumption to pull together a play about our “dames” and YES, present it in front of Ellen Goodman! Now that was dangerous.

What I remember most was that Ellen’s speech was about when to pass the torch to the next generation. The suffragist movement lasted seven decades. Ellen’s message was simple: “Look in the mirror; you are still here, and there is still time to make a difference.”

Nine years later we continue highlighting women in Dayton who continue to do incredible things. Since the beginning of Dangerous Dames, we have honored women in business, politics, media, civil service, and the judiciary. We have honored a high school student who founded her own charity, a WWII WAVE, and a WWII WASP. Every “Dame” event has been an incredible experience.

By the time you read this, Dangerous Dames 2019 will be in the past. This year we did something we never do—we decided to shine a light on two of our own. Women who helped bring us to who we are now, women who have not only led in the community but also in our League, Vivienne Himmell and Joyce Young realized a long time ago that the time for women to lead is never over. There is always time to take on a challenge, to mentor others, and to make a difference.

In the months ahead, we will be rolling out a program designed to fashion our own torch as we begin moving our League into the next century. Stay tuned for more details, and remember the words that will inspire the next generation of Dangerous Dames: “look in the mirror; you’re still here, and there is still time to make a difference.”

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA
DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

General Fund - a 501(c)(4) entity

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CABINET ($2,500 - $4,499)
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Talbott Tower Management*
Bob & Mary Winfree**

GOVERNOR ($1,000 - $2,499)
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Herbert Lee
Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County Commissioner
Jenell R. Ross
Lee & Ruth Snyder
Fred Strahorn, State Rep, 39th District
Judy & Tom Thompson
Joyce Young

We thank these Major Leadership Circle Members. We invite everyone to contribute to the LWV, including all elected officials, political entities, and candidates. The LWV is nonpartisan; the LWV does not endorse anyone on the Leadership Circle list.

Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity

CURRENT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Bill Gerhard – in Memory of Judy Gerhard
Carol Graff in memory of Bryon L. Schatzley
Sharon Harmer
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Tom & Judy Thompson
Tour De Gem Event
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
Bob & Mary Winfree
Women’s History Project Greene County

* In-kind contribution
** In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS APPRECIATED

Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity: Susan Hesselgesser; Sandy McHugh; Michelle M. Maciorowski Law, LLC; Rebecca Morgann; Macy Reynolds; Gayle Rominger; Women’s History Project Greene County
A LITTLE APRON HISTORY

The principal use of Grandma’s apron was to protect the dress underneath, because she only had a few. It was also because it was easier to wash aprons than dresses, plus aprons used less material. But along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven. It was wonderful for drying children’s tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven. When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, Grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow that was bent over the hot wood stove. Wood chips and kindling were brought into the kitchen in that apron. From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out onto the porch, waved her apron, and the men folk knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner. It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

~ Source Unknown (Submitted by Bobbie Beach)
Save The Date

We are all encouraged to attend the Friday evening portion of the LWVO State Convention (May 10) and to stay through the final plenary session on May 12. A quorum must be in attendance to conduct our important business. (Friday evening promises opportunities for fun as well as learning.)

At the convention’s Saturday night gala, a number of awards—to local Leagues, partners, and individuals—will be presented. Watch the website for information on the awards and an invitation for nominations.

For updated information go to: my.lwv.org/ohio/event/2019-lwvo-state-convention

Dark Money Documentary Repeat Showing

As 2020 electoral politics heats up, we’ll again see the overwhelming influence of money in politics. A repeat of the documentary Dark Money is being shown on Saturday, April 13, at the Little Art Theatre on 247 Xenia Avenue in Yellow Springs. The box office opens at 12:30 pm for the 1:00 pm screening. Admission is free, and there is no reserve seating. This event is hosted by Greater Dayton Move to Amend in a collaboration with the award-winning documentary series POV (pbs.org/pov).

Before the screening, Ellie's Restaurant in the Mills Park Hotel will offer $10 lunch specials which include dessert. For lunch reservations call 937-319.0402. A robust democracy discussion will follow at 3:30 pm at McGregor Hall on the Antioch College campus.

Contact Move to Amend at dayton-oh@movetoamend.org with questions.

SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting

~ Tuesday, May 21, Top of the Market, 6:00 pm ~
Talking About Voting Rights

The League is dedicated to ensuring that all eligible voters—particularly those from traditionally underrepresented or underserved communities, including first-time voters, non-college youth, new citizens, communities of color, the elderly, and low-income Americans—have the opportunity and the information to exercise their right to vote. To that end, LWVUS has created talking points for all Leagues to speak with one voice about voting rights, and messaging to counter voter suppression.

Lead with Values about Voting Rights:

- The right to vote is a critical principle of our democracy.
- Our democracy is stronger when every eligible voter can cast a vote and have it count.
- We should encourage every eligible voter to cast a ballot in every election to make their voices heard.
- We want our election system to be free, fair, and accessible to all eligible voters.

Discredit Voter Suppressors with the Truth:

- False claims of “widespread voter fraud” have been used to unlawfully purge eligible voters from the rolls.
- These claims are an intimidation tactic, designed to suppress certain populations from participating in our elections, including African Americans and Hispanic voters.

Encouraging all eligible voters to participate in our elections should be the intention of all politicians. For more on this topic, view the page at lwv.org/league-management/talking-points-templates/talking-points-talking-about-voting-rights

Restoring the Voting Rights Act

The League of Women Voters is proud to support H.R. 4, the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) which will restore sections of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court stripped in the Shelby County v. Holder decision in 2013. LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase released the following statement in support of this critical bill:

“The right to vote is a sacred pillar of our democracy, central to the mission of the League of Women Voters, and why we deeply support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA).

“More than 50 years ago, we saw the most sweeping advancement to voting rights with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which made racially discriminatory voting practices illegal. Since the court’s decision in 2013, voters across the country have faced issues at the ballot box, including unlawful purges, shortening of voting hours, and the closing of polling places in communities with large populations of voters of color.

“With the introduction of this bill, it is time for Congress to update the Voting Rights Act and restore the vote for millions of disenfranchised voters.

“The VRAA will strengthen our democracy by ensuring that race is not a factor in determining who has access to the ballot box. It is time to move forward with this bill, and the League of Women Voters implores all members of Congress to support this important legislation.”
A three-judge panel convened Monday, March 4, at the Potter Stewart Federal Courthouse to determine the constitutionality of Ohio’s congressional map. As reported by the Brennan Center for Justice: “The Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, and a group of Ohio residents filed suit contending Ohio’s 2011 congressional map is an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander that violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments and Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution.”

Jen Miller, executive director of LWV Ohio, testified at length, constantly reiterating her view that Ohio’s gerrymandered map was not representative of fair districts and fair elections. She defined “fairness” as a compact map drawn on neutral criteria; however, she stressed no one piece of data should be used to determine a “fair map.” The long history of LWV’s involvement with redistricting was reviewed, circling back to membership that consistently identifies gerrymandering as the number one concern with respect to influencing election outcomes. As the League operates under an edict to find ways to improve democracy, all threats to this salient issue must be addressed.

The trial should last at least two weeks followed by 10 days for both sides to file “findings of fact and conclusions of law” prior to a ruling by the judges. The standards to be met include partisan intent and partisan harm. Expert testimony will address whether or not partisan harm was actualized. A longer version of the court proceedings can be accessed at the following link: https://casetext.com/case/ohio-a-philip-randolph-institution-v-householder-1.

Nominations Open for Paul and Joyce Aicher Leadership in Democracy Award

Leagues and League members can now be nominated for the third annual Paul and Joyce Aicher Leadership in Democracy Award from Everyday Democracy. Every year, Everyday Democracy recognizes a standout community change agent—a person or organization whose work in their community exemplifies the values on which they were founded: a voice for all, connection across differences, racial equity, and community change. This award provides recognition and a $10,000 award to an individual or organization in the U.S. exemplifying these values.

Nominations for the 2019 Paul and Joyce Aicher Leadership in Democracy Award are due by April 15, 2019. Go to everyday-democracy.org/aicher-award for more details about eligibility, the nomination process, and how to nominate an individual or organization.
A Woman’s Right to Choose

Even among the ranks of our League we cannot find a warm, fuzzy, comforting answer to a woman’s right to choose. As conflicted as we are, it is still our duty to inform the community and membership about pending legislation. Whatever your opinion is on this important issue, the League encourages you to contact your representative to let your voice be heard.

Below is an excerpt from Maggie Prosser of *The Columbus Dispatch* on March 14, 2019 with the latest information on the controversial “Heartbeat Bill.”

“By a six-vote margin, the controversial ‘Heartbeat Bill’ passed the Ohio Senate on Wednesday, moving another step closer to becoming law after several attempts in recent years fell short. Senate Bill 23, which would prohibit abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected, with exceptions for cases in which the mother’s life is at risk, was debated vociferously on the Senate floor before passing 19-13.

“Democrats attempted to add three amendments to the bill before voting: to allow hospitals to give victims of rape emergency contraceptives to prevent unwanted pregnancies, to require mandatory health-insurance coverage for maternity services, and to include exceptions for cases of rape, incest or for women with mental-health issues. All three amendments were tabled, leaving the current version of the bill without exceptions for cases of rape or incest. The bill now moves to the House. Speaker Larry Householder said hearings on the bill should begin next week, and a vote is expected in the second week of April.

“The Senate also passed Senate Resolution 41 by 32-0, urging Congress to enact the ‘Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act,’ which supporters say would guarantee adequate medical care is given to babies born after surviving an attempted abortion. Opponents question the need for such a measure because of existing laws against killing living children.”

Volunteer Voices

I’m concerned about running out of time, so I set my cell phone alarm to indicate when the parking meter expires. I have one hour and eight minutes to spend at Third Perk in downtown Dayton with Kathy Turner and Paul Lamberger, co-chairs of the LWVGDA Natural Resources Committee, barely enough time to scratch the surface of their work.

It occurs to me that the urgency they feel regarding issues of water quality, renewable resources, clean air, and so much more is because the clock is ticking on our opportunity to address environmental and natural resource issues. Kathy and Paul find ways to make a positive difference, even as many environmental policy advances and safety nets are being stepped back or unraveled at the federal level. A sample of their activities: attend Five Rivers MetroParks board meetings, organize the LWV’s participation in the annual river clean-up day, contact Congress regarding environmental legislation, coordinate a field trip to Stony Hollow Landfill and plan other LWV programs, write about environmental issues for the *Voter*, testify in front of Dayton City Commission, march for science at Courthouse Square, and attend a City of Dayton Environmental Advisory Board meeting.

Their expertise, stemming from their respective experiences as a science teacher and a chemist, enables them to participate in high-level conversations and then educate the League in understandable terms on relevant issues. Kathy’s been chairing the Natural Resources committee for about ten years, and Paul joined her as co-chair around five years ago; they are still going strong, and could use your help! Volunteers are needed to contact elected officials, participate in the 2019 River Clean-up Saturday, April 13, and engage in other related League programs. If you are concerned about the environment and our natural resources, now is the time to join this committee! Kathy is the point person and can be reached by email at songbird_kt@yahoo.com. Would you like to chat about other ways you can make a difference through the League? I can be reached at 937.409.0536. (phone or text) or via email at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.
**PLEASE NOTE:**

**THERE IS NO QUARTERLY DINNER**
on Monday, April 30.

*This date was printed in error. We apologize for any and all confusion.*

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"We are political but nonpartisan"

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Current Resident or:

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