The Lady on the Bicycle

In the upper left-hand corner of our newsletter is a lovely woman atop a bicycle. You might be wondering why. Our League adopted Annie Cohen Kopchovsky (1870-1947), known as Annie Londonderry, nine years ago as we began the countdown to our 100th anniversary. Annie was a free-thinking woman who reinvented herself under her pseudonym as an entrepreneur, athlete, and globetrotter to support her family. She was the first woman to bicycle around the world, drawing attention especially from other women.

In her June 2014 article for The Atlantic, “How the Bicycle Paved the Way for Women’s Rights,” Adrienne LaFrance notes that, for women, the (bicycle) “technology craze of the 1890s meant fashion freedom and transportation independence. . . . Both Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are credited with declaring that ‘woman is riding to suffrage on the bicycle,’ a line that was printed and reprinted in newspapers at the turn of the century. The bicycle took ‘old-fashioned, slow-going notions of the gentler sex,’ as The Courier (Nebraska) reported in 1895, and replaced them with ‘some new woman, mounted on her steed of steel.’ And it gave women a new level of transportation independence that perplexed newspaper columnists across the country. . . . Yes, bicycle riding required a shift away from the restrictive, modest fashion of the Victorian age, and ushered in a new era of exposed ankles—or at least visible bloomers—that represented such a departure from the laced up, ruffled-down fashion that preceded it, that bicycling women became a fascination.”

So it was with complete joy that the League adopted Annie and also a great bicycle pin you may have seen at LWV events. The pin is a free-trade item, made in Kenya of completely recycled materials, by women who are supporting their families—we love it and all it represents!

Leading up to 100 years of voting equality for women, cheers to the bike-riding women who happily shed the trappings of the past to take women into the future.

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA
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*In-kind contribution
**In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

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.

Recent Contributions Appreciated

General Fund – a 501(c)(4):
Beverly Barnes
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Ronald White
**Suffrage came down to ONE MAN’S VOTE**

Since women could not vote for the 19th Amendment (or anything else), it took the men in the community to go to the polls and vote for women’s rights. In remembrance of the men of Dayton in 1919—John Patterson, Colonel Deeds, David Rike, Wilbur and Milton Wright, and others—we are honored that **Paul Gruner, Montgomery County Engineer**, has agreed to make the toast to these men and to the suffragists of Dayton.

We encourage men to join our celebration on August 26, and each will receive a yellow rose in memory of the men who wore a yellow rose in their lapel to indicate their support of women’s rights.

**A Toast To Tenacity**

**Monday, August 26**

6 pm — 8 pm

Rumbleseat Wine

5853 Far Hills Ave

Dayton, OH 45429

Enjoy wine and delicious hors d’oeuvres and **celebrate WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY**, the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment, the amazing efforts of the Suffragists to procure the vote, and the continuing efforts for equal rights for women.

Tickets are $35 each and include toast beverage and hors d’oeuvres. Cash bar also available. **Tickets are limited** so don’t delay! Pay online at [www.lwvdayton.org/edfund](http://www.lwvdayton.org/edfund), or send your check made out to *Dayton Area LWV Education Fund* to the League office. For more information, call **937.228.4041**.

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**Don’t Be Late to the Party of the Century**

The League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton’s 100th anniversary Dangerous Dames of Dayton event will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2020** at the Dayton Art Institute, and it will be the party of the century!

Susan Page, an award-winning American journalist and Washington Bureau chief for *USA Today* is our guest speaker. She has a long-standing career in American journalism, covering four White House Administrations and six Presidential elections. Ms. Page is a regular political consultant on cable news MSNBC, Sunday Morning Interview and Late Edition. Susan is a fan of the League of Women Voters and is thrilled to come to Dayton to participate in Dangerous Dames of Dayton and our centennial celebration. Susan’s new book about Barbara Bush, *The Matriarch*, can be purchased through the League office for $20. All books will be autographed at the Dangerous Dames event.

Assemble your own group of “dangerous dames” and purchase your tickets early at [www.lwvdayton.org](http://www.lwvdayton.org), or by contacting LWVGDA office at **937.228.4041**, or email **league@lwvdayton.org**. Price: $100 for 100 years.
Members who attended the June 18 Dine & Dish were regaled by Andrea Walker-Cummings’s presentation on local African-American Suffragette, Jewelia Ann Galloway Higgins.

Earlier this year, Andrea’s work was featured in the annual exhibit of African-American artists at the Schuster Center, through a partnership with Willis “Bing” Davis, curator and director of Dayton’s EbonNia Gallery. Bing Davis, a gift to our community, has always viewed the arts as an agent for change.

This year’s exhibit, titled “2019 Dayton Skyscrapers – A Celebration Of Local African-American High Achievers, featured the work of African-American visual artists from the Miami Valley who researched prominent African-American role models for the community. Davis commissioned Andrea Cummings to bring to life the suffragist movement and the contribution of a local African-American suffragist. It was timely, given the upcoming 2020 celebration of the centennial for the 19th amendment. Andrea was “all in,” hitting the books to research the local movement and zeroing in on an area activist and unsung heroine of her time. Andrea managed to research newspaper articles and actual minutes of meetings held by the Dayton Women’s Suffragist Association. She learned that Jewelia came from a long line of activists dating back to her great-grandmother. Andrea compiled a summary of her findings to display along with her period piece of art at the Skyscraper exhibit. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Andrea for her dogged pursuit of Jewelia’s story—and for bringing it to light through her artistic talents.

~Valerie Lee, Action Chair

Guest Speaker Andrea Walker-Cummings and Willis “Bing” Davis

The Pale Blue DOT

There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we’ve ever known. . .*

This photo was taken by Voyager 1 in 1994 as the spacecraft left the fringes of our solar system; in 2019, its journey continues in interstellar space.

Whether you believe global warming is real or a political scare tactic, this planet is all we have. It is what we leave for our children, grandchildren, and every species occupying our planet. If global warming is being exaggerated, what is the downside of clean air and fresh water? To eliminating the plastic in the oceans, the overflowing trash moldering in our landfills? And this isn’t rocket science! Did you know turning off water while brushing your teeth conserves energy, carbon pollution, and saves eight gallons of water? Say NO to restaurant straws; biodegradable straws are available online. Wrap gifts in tissue, pay bills online, boycott products with microbeads, turn off lights, use power strips instead of plugs. And when the day is done, turn off the television and gaze at the stars.

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director

*Excerpted from Carl Sagan’s 1994 book, Pale Blue Dot as viewed online at www.planetary.org
Ohio League of Women Voters Redistricting Lawsuit

On Thursday, June 27 the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts shouldn’t play a role in fixing partisan gerrymandering. Despite our unanimous win by a three-judge panel in the lower federal court on May 3, the ruling negates the previous order to draw a remedial map for the 2020 election. Accordingly, Ohio won’t have a new map until the 2022 election.

Statement from LWVO Director Jen Miller:
“The gerrymandering decisions out of the Supreme Court today are truly disappointing, but WE WILL PERSIST! We did not give up during our 72-year struggle to secure the 19th Amendment, which is now turning 100. And we will never give up in the longer battle of making sure that the ballot box is accessible to all eligible voters, regardless of race, gender, creed, ability, or language. For the last 50 years, the League of Women Voters of Ohio has worked against partisan gerrymandering, with countless bumps along the way. This decision will not stop us from doing everything we can to bring fair maps to the people of Ohio. We will now turn our eye towards making new congressional and state legislative maps in 2021. With robust public participation in that process, we will hold legislators accountable and demonstrate that all Ohio voters—Republican, Democrat, and Independent—want fair maps. Take comfort in our 100-year history of making democracy work, and stay tuned for next steps. Together, we can and will help our union be more perfect.”

~Jen Miller, LWVO Executive Director

Be a Partner in Democracy

The Board of Elections has asked the League of Women Voters to participate in their Partners in Democracy program to provide skilled workers at each polling location. Precinct Election Officials are being recruited to help conduct fair, transparent, and accurate elections on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Our League will provide t-shirts or buttons with the League logo for all members who agree to participate. To qualify you must:
⇒ be a registered voter in Montgomery or Greene County.
⇒ have a vehicle on Election Day.
⇒ attend a training class, and work on Election Day from 5:45 am until released by polling location supervisor.
⇒ not have a felony conviction.
⇒ be able to lift 25 pounds.

This is a paid position. Participants will receive $25 for the training class and $105 for Election Day.

For an application, call the League office at 937.228.4041, or contact the Board of Elections directly:
Robyn Fecke: 937.225.5673, fecker@mcohio.org
Ted Brown: 937.225.5671, brownt@mcohio.org
League Members Provide Food to Nourish and Empower

Dayton League members Yvonne Curington and Deb Gibson are spearheading League efforts to learn more about hunger in our community and how the League might help address this issue. To that end, League members are volunteering one day a month to prepare and serve meals—and register voters—at the House of Bread. The League Board recently voted to assist Dayton tornado victims by donating a percentage of the profits from all League fundraisers to the House of Bread and the Dayton Food Bank.

To get involved, contact the League at 937.228.4041 or league@lwvdayton.org.

LWV Reading Series Reminder

The next event in the Dayton League’s reading series is at Carillon Brewing on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing *The Woman Who Smashed the Codes: A True Story of Loves, Spies and the Unlikely Heroine who Outwitted America’s Enemies*, by Jason Fagone.

RSVP by Friday, August 9, to D.J. Shade at wendellshade@gmail.com, in order to give the restaurant a head count. Each participant will order from the menu.
Meaningful Opportunities

If you’ve ever mentioned to someone in the local area that you’re a League of Women Voters member, that person probably thanked you for the Voters Guide. The LWVGDA is known for this outstanding resource, printed once a year with two online editions. The person behind this publication since 2012 is volunteer Lucy Anne McKosky, and she is asking for our help in getting the 2019 Guide delivered.

The Voters Guide is included with the Dayton Daily News, but other methods of distribution are needed. Lucy Anne has big ideas but needs the following volunteers to implement them:

• **Distribution Coordinator** – to coordinate distribution of the Guide through delivery volunteers, who take stacks of the Guide to places of business, worship, volunteer jobs, government buildings, and other identified locations.

• **Delivery Volunteer** – to arrange to pick up stacks of the Guide and deliver to places within a specific community (most likely their own).

• **All members** – to brainstorm for places the Guide might be distributed. What about your office or place of worship? A group that you meet with on a regular basis? This is where EVERYONE can help!

The Voters Guide will be ready for distribution the second or third week in October and is a short-term task. Are you interested in being the distribution coordinator or a delivery volunteer? Where would you like to see a stack of Voters Guides?

I look forward to hearing from you soon!

Contact me at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

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IN MEMORIUM

JOAN H. ALBRECHT

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area extends its sincerest sympathy to the family of Joan H. Albrecht. Joan was a loyal, active, and very supportive member of the Dayton League for many years and will be missed by all who knew her.
"Now that you have the vote, what are you going to do with it?"
~founder Carrie Chapman Catt

For up-to-date League happenings, legislative alerts and news, check out our Facebook page, LWV Dayton OH.

Then SHARE our page with friends and family!

YES! I want to be a sponsor of the Voters Guide!
I’ve enclosed my tax deductible gift of:

- $75/1,000 copies  - $150/2000 copies  - $225/3000 copies  - $300/4000 copies
- $375/5000 copies  - $450/6000 copies  - $525/7000 copies  - $600/8000 copies
- $675/9000 copies  - $750/10000 copies  $______ Other Donation

Name of Business, Individual or Group for Voters Guide Listing:
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