Time to Count My Blessings

I’m a lucky girl. I have had an incredible career, but working with the Dayton Area League of Women Voters makes me most proud. Because I was a member before I became your Executive Director, this doesn’t feel like a job; it’s more like running a family business with all the good and the crazy that brings.

With the exception of our office manager Mary Winfree and me, everyone else is a volunteer. I never let myself forget that. Without the dedication of our membership to our mission we would not be in business and we certainly would not be able to accomplish the extraordinary things we do.

As I look back at 2017, I want to thank my Board: busy people, all of them. Thank you Susan Byerly, Patty Skilken, Laurie Fanning, David Bodary, Becky Kirkland, Andy Cobb, Janet Hess, Mario, and Pat Bradley-Falke. I know I can contact this Board with ideas and issues, and the feedback is always supportive, helpful, and empowering.

I want to thank Peggy Berry and Rita Peterson for their round-the-clock service to promote our work and League events.

Kathy Farmer, who quietly manages the all-important Naturalization ceremonies that matter to our mission and our newest citizens.

Kathy Turner and Paul Lamberger, who keep us informed on the status of Ohio’s natural resources.

David Bodary, our VP of Programs, gets a special Super Hero high-five! Despite being seriously injured this summer, David came back like a champ to work on the NIFI (National Issues Forum Institute) “Where have all the Voters Gone?” project (see article, page 11), assisted with Issue 2 Forum, and helped distribute Voters Guides to the Sinclair Campus. So glad to have him healthy and back with us.

Continued on page 2........

DECEMBER & THE NEW YEAR

- December 23, 2017—January 2, 2018, Office CLOSED (re-opens January 3)
- Tuesday, January 16, 2018 @ 5:30 pm, Program Planning Meeting, Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley (p.10)
- Thursday, January 25 @ 5:30pm, Capitol Chat, Dayton Racquet Club (p.5)
- Tuesday, February 20 @ 6:00pm, Quarterly Dinner, Location TBD
- Don’t Forget: No January Issue of The Voter
My Blessings  
Continued from page 1........

Dianne Herman, Speakers Bureau Chair, who works hard to introduce the League to the community and educates the public on a variety of issues.

Tonya Wilson-Wood, who pores through her big book of names to find the volunteers that match our projects and events.

Nancy Bain and office manager Mary, who have warmly welcomed dozens of new members in 2017.

New member Jan Underwood, who is single-handedly working on our Redistricting Campaign – huge project!

Gina Arnett and Susan Darcy get a round of applause for re-inventing the monthly Voter into a chic piece of information about the League at all levels. Both of these women also promote the League through public relations campaigns.

Speaking of The Voter, it would not get out the door without the faithful service of our Mailing Committee who cheerfully gather to collate, fold and label it. Many thanks to Vi Matyas’ team: Cathy Clark, Kathy Farmer, Rebecca Jarvi, Ellen Lauber, Val Lee, Jo Lovelace, and Eddie Pequignot.

Valerie Lee is in a class all her own with projects she develops on hot topics, and the incredible classes she organizes for UD’s Osher Life Long Learning Institute classes (see article, page 5)

Funding and Development Committee, truly the lifeblood of the League. These women work every month to provide entertaining and educational events that help us pay the bills. They are amazing! I could not function without them: Nancy Adkins, Barbara Buddendeck, Susan Darcy, Laurie Fanning, Linda Fish, Viv Himmell, Ellen McCloskey, Leslie Merry and Peg Schulz.

Voters Service – no words to describe the dedication and intensity of election season. Pat Bradley-Falke, VP Voter Service is a trooper: writing scripts and orchestrating cable interviews and candidate forums. Team members this year were Patty Skilken and Trudy Krisher, who hosted the cable forums with our partners at DATV and MVCC.

Mario, who serves with Pat Bradley-Falke as co-VP of Voter Service, is dedicated to voter registrations around the community.

Voters Guide Team 2017 – give yourselves a round of applause! Led by the tireless Lucy Anne McKosky, this team of Jo Lovelace Hill, Laurel Kerr, Sandie Mants, Patsy Thurin, and newest member Peggy Coale worked round the clock to get the Guide on the streets. Lillian Moskeland and Claudia Cortez-Reinhardt worked their magic once again translating the Voters Guide into Spanish in record time.

We cannot forget Viv Himmell, Val Lee, Ellen McCloskey, and Karen Myers who helped write questions for candidate forums and the Voters Guide. Double thanks to Ellen, who once again let the League store Guides in her garage and hosted a relentless list of members dropping in at all hours to pick up copies to distribute to the community.

Special thanks to Gina Arnett for her incredible design for the cover of the Voters Guide; it truly represented the League and our history with a fresh appeal to younger voters!

I also want to thank our office manager Mary Winfree for balancing phone calls for the Voter Hotline this year and helping me keep all the balls in the air through a busy election season and throughout the year.

It remains my pleasure to work every day with this League. How lucky I am to have such a dedicated team.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director
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 non-partisan; the LWV does not endorse anyone on the Leadership Circle list.
NEW MEMBERS

SEPTEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Marcia Calhoun
5930 Withrow Way
Dayton OH 45415
937-277-4605
lgcalhoun2@yahoo.com

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1318 Homestead Dr
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William Davis
7231 Hardwicke Pl
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wndavis@acm.org

Cynthia Hatton Tepe
281 Poplar Grove Dr
Vandalia OH 45377-2731

Becky Jamison
5600 Viewpoint Dr
Dayton OH 45459
937-901-1511
Bsuej837@gmail.com

Pia Kanistros
83 W Floyd Ave
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PiaKan99@aol.com

Teri Linden
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lindenteri@yahoo.com

Camille & Terry Morris
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Marigrace P Ryan
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Jan Underwood
108 E Hudson Ave
Dayton OH 45405

Chelsea Yergens
3140 Amsted Ln
Dayton OH 45424-5080
716-581-0386
chelsea.yergens@gmail.com

QUARTERLY DINNER

Tuesday, February 20 at 6pm

SAVE THE DATE

Have you signed the
FAIR DISTRICTS PETITION yet?
If not, call the League office @ 937.228.4041
Our U.D. Seminar Comes To A Close

Our Political Democracy: Can We Bridge the Partisan Divide? was the title of the seminar the League moderated for the University of Dayton Life Long Learning Institute. We covered topics ranging from economics to education (with Dr. Richard Gunter from OSU speaking on gerrymandering highly-favored) and we closed with the showing of a YouTube video that featured former Vice President Joe Biden and Governor John Kasich. As luck would have it, the University of Delaware had embarked on a speaker series “As We Stand Divided.” University of Delaware’s Center for Political Communication and the Biden Institute mirrored our efforts to find a means to reach consensus and to appreciate the value of political cooperation.

You can still access the video at the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fe8iSYHOg5A

Valerie Lee, Action Chair

WE MUST STRIVE TO BECOME GOOD ANCESTORS.

Ralph Nader

Capitol Chat
Thursday, January 25, 2018 @ 5:30pm
Dayton Racquet Club

The Gumbo of Gerrymandering and Governing

Join us for a light supper of warm soups, tasty salads, delicious desserts, and a welcoming COD bar at The Dayton Racquet Club -- Kettering Tower -- 40 North Main St. Dayton

Enjoy free parking in the attached garage – enter the lot from Jefferson Street
(You won’t have to be out in the elements)

Engage with a panel of our local state legislators who will talk about legislative redistricting initiatives in the State of Ohio that will support Fair Elections as well as other insider news from the Statehouse

The view of our town at night from the 29th Floor of the DRC is stunning

For further information, visit our website at lwvdayton.org, Facebook page at Lwv Dayton OH, or call the office at 937-228-4041

Your $50 check confirms your reservation; RSVP by Monday, January 8, 2018

Capitol Chat is sponsored by the Dayton Area LWV Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) entity. A portion of your ticket is tax deductible.
UPDATE: Ohio Voter Case Removed from November Calendar

Amy Howe, Independent Contractor and Reporter; Posted Friday, October 27th, 2017 at 6:45 pm

The Supreme Court’s November sitting – which begins on Monday, October 30 – shrank today to six cases, which will be argued over five days. Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute, a challenge to the procedure that Ohio uses to remove inactive voters from its voter-registration lists, had been scheduled for oral argument on Wednesday, November 8, but it will be postponed to a later, as-yet-undetermined date. The change came in the wake of a letter to the justices from Stuart Naifeh, an attorney for APRI. Naifeh told the court that medical reasons will preclude Brenda Wright, who had been slated to argue the case, from doing so; Naifeh will now argue the case but requested additional time to prepare. Attorneys for Ohio and the United States, which will argue as a “friend of the court” in support of the state, did not object to Naifeh’s request.

STATE LEGISLATURE NEWS

The Ohio General Assembly is well into the swing of regular session, so there are lots of issues to keep an eye on. Here is some of the latest activity of which to be aware:

• The LWVO advocacy team is carefully watching Senate Bill 21, which would allow county boards of elections to reduce the number of poll workers required at polling locations that use electronic poll books. In committee, LWVO has recommended adding a provision to write into law a requirement that BOEs create election administration plans (EAPs) to plan what resources will be needed and make sure contingencies are fully considered. These EAPs originated as part of the settlement of a 2005 lawsuit filed by LWVO alleging serious deficiencies in election administrations across Ohio, and though BOEs have found these plans helpful and the Secretary of State has continued to require them after the settlement expired, the requirement has never been established in statute.

• On October 24, the House passed HB 142 which would effectively eliminate the requirement that concealed carry weapon holders notify law enforcement of firearms in their possession. Opposed by gun safety groups and representatives of law enforcement, the bill now proceeds to the Senate for consideration.

• House Bill 214, to ban abortion on the basis of a prenatal diagnosis or potential diagnosis of Down Syndrome, a move opposed by reproductive rights groups, doctors, and disability advocates, was voted out of committee in the House, putting it in a position to be approved by the full House at any time. The Senate version, SB 164, has had three hearings, though a similar law in Indiana was recently struck down by a federal judge.

• Bills proposing ratepayer subsidies for old, potentially unsafe nuclear plants - once rumored to be dead in committee - have been revived, with a new proposal in the House and more hearings in the Senate.

• Also making a reappearance is a plan to dismantle Ohio's renewable energy standards similar to one vetoed by Governor Kasich during lame duck in December 2016. The governor has not said whether he would veto the most recent legislation, which has passed the House and now has had three Senate committee hearings.
Environmental Links: WATER

Keeping tabs on the environment in order to inform voters of critical issues is one of the most important things the League does. Below, you’ll find a list of links about Lake Erie and algae that has been compiled by the LWV Ohio office.

Algae Research:

2017 Lake Erie Algae Bloom:
https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/lakeerie_bulletins/HAB20170925_2017022_LE.pdf

Algae Report:

Fund Request for Lake Erie:
http://www.dispatch.com/sports/20171014/outdoors--coalition-seeks-billions-to-restore-great-lakes

Al Rosenfield, Energy Specialist ♻️ League of Women Voters of Ohio, Columbus OH ♻️ Contact: 614-486-8892

Campaign Updates

We’re excited to share news of the redistricting effort advancing in leaps and bounds on multiple fronts, driving exposure and attention toward our movement for fair districts and fair elections.

The legislature has finally responded to our calls for reform, establishing a bipartisan, four-member legislative working group examining congressional redistricting. That group announced two sessions to hear testimony on the issue, one of which took place Thursday, October 26.

Meanwhile, the signature gathering effort has surpassed 152,000 signatures, over halfway to the number needed statewide! This includes 14 counties that are at or above the 5 percent threshold, plus many more that are closing in - some with fewer than 100 signatures to go. The momentum of our signature campaign is also serving as a great incentive for the lawmakers considering a legislative solution, so it is important to keep collecting signatures as they debate. Many communities have great fall activities like festivals and sporting events where we can get out the message and engage with registered voters.

The command of the Constitution is plain. There is no moral issue. It is wrong—deadly wrong—to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country. There is no issue of States’ rights or National rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON
LWVUS Receives DC Statehood and Voting Rights Grant

Led by the LWVDC Committee for Full Rights for DC Citizens, members are presenting DC Statehood Toolkit materials in five places soon, with other visits planned, like LWV Hong Kong in November. Up first are Anchorage and Tanana Valley, Alaska Leagues, and the Missouri State Fall Conference. Denver and Ft. Collins, Colorado Leagues will follow, with New England Regional Conference in April. Information: www.lwvdc.org. To schedule: lwvdc1920@gmail.com, please use “Statehood” in the subject line.

"Setting the Table for Civility" Over the Holidays

As part of the League’s partnership with the National Institute for Civil Discourse, LWV members are invited to participate in "Setting the Table for Civility." It is an opportunity for individuals, as we gather with friends and family for the upcoming Thanksgiving and year-end holiday season, to take action to promote civility. These include exploring three basic questions:

• What are you most thankful for about living in America?
• How do you feel about the deep divisions and incivility we see now in our country?
• What can we do to revive civility and respect and find more effective ways to listen to each other and work together?

Tools and materials are available to support conversations at family gatherings, within faith communities, on campuses and on social media. This could be a great way to engage new members and to invite non-members to join the League in an activity that brings people together and helps us build more civil dialogue in communities.

League Urges U.S. Senators to Co-Sponsor We the People Act

The League sent a letter to the U.S. Senate urging Senators to cosponsor and support the We the People Democracy Reform Act of 2017. This legislation is a comprehensive solution to the issues facing our democracy. The reforms included will empower citizens and remove barriers to participation for all Americans, irrespective of political party. The Act provides an important roadmap for solving the vital issues facing our political system and serves as a vehicle to help renew Americans’ faith that the problems facing our democracy can be solved. Members of the LWVUS Lobby Corps will be visiting Senators to address this legislation.

League Supports Honest Ads Act

The League supports the bipartisan Honest Ads Act, legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate that addresses the need for new rules to expose efforts undertaken by foreign interests to intervene in U.S. elections and that will improve transparency of online political ads. The League joined 27 reform groups calling on Senators to support and cosponsor the legislation.

League Expresses Concerns Over Healthcare.gov Outages

The League joined a letter sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services regarding scheduled outages of healthcare.gov during the shortened 2017 open enrollment period. The letter urges the department to restrict outages to typical website management efforts so that consumers shopping for, enrolling and re-enrolling in Marketplace health insurance are not affected.

Continued on page 9............
**A New Space, a New Home**

2017 was a big year. The Greater Dayton League made the leap into new office space that allows us room to grow and breathe. Though everything was once close at hand, I have to admit my former office on the 12th floor was really a very cozy walk-in closet. In our new storefront location, we have elbow room for our committees to work and a place for our Board and membership to gather.

My favorite part is the “library” that is comfortable, friendly, and smacks of the history of the Women’s Movement. I want to sincerely thank Bill Gerhard for donating his wife Judy’s book collection to help fill our shelves. Judy Gerhard was a former League member and her books are a testimonial to the woman she was. I love that other League members have brought in their favorite books or books they have written to add to our collection.

When we first moved in, as the boxes emptied, and the dust settled, I must admit our big space was just space until our League members adopted it. Vivienne Himmell donated a Keurig coffee maker and had the iconic photo of the Dayton Suffragists suitably matted and framed. Susan Byerly took pity on the dusty and chipped frame we had for Mike Peter’s cartoon tribute to the GDA League and like-wise gave it a make-over. Susan Darcy donated a coat rack and gifted the office with a replica of the Declaration of Sentiments from the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. Andy Cobb donated a new white board and Ralph & Patty Skilken provided a lovely leather couch for our reception area. Mary and Bob Winfree gifted us with a wireless network and double computer screens for all the desks and my daughters presented us with suffragist wall clings and throw pillows to fill in the empty spaces. Pat Bradley-Falke surprised me with a very cool empowering mug for my desk and, in line with the historical significance of the bicycle for women’s emancipation, Barbara Buddendenk purchased a wire bicycle centerpiece for the conference room table. All in all, we’re now pretty fancy.

Of course, every day I remember that this change would not have been possible without Johanna (Jo) Columbro, who was and remains part of our League through her gift. I know she would like the new space that is now home to the Greater Dayton League of Women Voters. Many thanks to all who helped create an empowering atmosphere that makes us all proud.

*Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director*
Total state affiliates for each political party, May 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political party</th>
<th>Number of states that recognize these parties</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican Party</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libertarian Party</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Party</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constitution Party</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various parties calling themselves Independent or Independence parties</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reform Party</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Families Party</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Delta Party</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive Party</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America First Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America's Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Delta</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better for America Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots-Legalize Cannabis Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Marijuana Now Party</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liberty Union Party</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate Party</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Party</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Law Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party for Socialism and Liberation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Freedom Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Citizens Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's Equality Party</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information & Chart taken from: https://ballotpedia.org/

Editors’ Note: Well, maybe not explained but at least explored. The adjacent chart and information below is the Introduction to a Mini-Series on Political Parties in the United States, which will appear monthly when space is available. The purpose of the mini-series is congruent with the League’s MISSION to “encourage informed and active participation in government” & POLICY: “The League does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.” Our series roadmap will look something like the following:

1. General Information on Political Parties in the U.S.
2. Ballot Access for Political Parties: What’s required?
3-6. 3rd Party History Bits & Trivia: Libertarian, Green, Constitution, etc.
7. Republican History Bits & Trivia
8. Democrat History Bits & Trivia

“Although there are dozens of political parties in the United States, only certain parties are entitled to have the names of their candidates for office printed on election ballots. In order to qualify for ballot placement, a party must meet certain requirements that vary from state to state. For example, in some states a party may have to file a petition in order to qualify for ballot placement. In other states, a party must organize around a candidate for a specific office; that candidate must in turn win a percentage of the vote in order for the party to be granted ballot status. In still other states, an aspiring political party must register a certain number of voters. As of May 2017, there were at least 28 distinct ballot-qualified political parties in the United States. There were 215 state-level parties. Some parties are recognized in multiple states. For example, both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are recognized in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.”

SAVE THE DATE & PENCIL IT IN!

WHAT: ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING & DINNER
WHEN: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 5:30 pm
WHERE: Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley
RSVP BY: January 9, 2018 to 937-228-4041 OR league@lwvdayton.org
Where Have All the Voters Gone?

Sue Hesselgesser and Andy Cobb joined Bill Muse with the National Issues Forum Institute (NIFI) located here in Kettering for a forum discussion titled “Where Have All the Voters Gone?” with a class of several attendees including our own Action Director, Val Lee. Moderated by Tim Hraster, the forum was held at University of Dayton and was a lively discussion on voting issues. Many Americans express frustration about low voter turnout rates, which have declined steadily since the 1960s among all demographics. The purpose of this forum was to consider the following questions:

What, if anything, should be done to increase voter participation?
What are the key elements of a “healthy democracy”?

Better access to and less restrictions on voting were some of the ideas attendees threw out as ways to resolve our low voter turnout in the US.

Your Greater Dayton League will be partnering with the NIFI for future “Where Have All the Voters Gone?” forums. The League will be hosting a variety forums in our local area, in hopes of creating a future partnership between NIFI and the National LWV.

If you would like to participate in one of these forums, please contact the League office at league@lwvdayton.org or 937-228-4041.

Andrea Cobb, President Elect
What does it mean to be a member of The League of Women Voters?

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWWGDA) is one of the fastest growing Leagues in the country. We gained 50 new members in 2017 coming into November. This is unheard of growth in recent years.

As a growing League, we are struggling with the best way to involve and incorporate new members. We are a nearly all-volunteer organization. That means that most of us are working full-time jobs or involved in other organizations in addition to our League activities. What that really means is we have a lot of ideas and limited time to organize our thoughts and turn these ideas into action plans.

I have reviewed the interest sheets of many new members – WE NEED YOU! During the elections, we need moderators at forums. We need people who aren’t camera shy to volunteer to help when we record cable interviews. We need people to serve on committees and take part in programs like Where Have all the Voters Gone. We need members to attend the forums we sponsor like the Issue 2 Forum at Sinclair. The Dayton League gets strength from being an organization that represents 300 women and men; we need you in attendance at Forums so we can show our strength!

We plan to have an open house and would love to see every member attend who has not yet been to the League office. We are planning to have new member orientations so we can help new members find relevance in the League. While we get these plans in place, I ask the following: If you can’t attend anything else, please attend the Annual Meeting in the spring (this is all business – not exciting but you will meet everyone!) and the Planning Meeting in January (review League positions, plan forums... AND there is food).

You had a purpose in joining the League. We want to help you fulfill that purpose – Now you help us meet you!

Oh, and this is the December issue – so everyone have a wonderful holiday season!

Susan Byerly, President LWVGDA