Making Minnie Proud

On August 26, Women’s Equality Day, the community and several League members joined together for Toast to Tenacity at Rumbleseat Wine. The evening was an opportunity to lift a glass to celebrate 99 years of women’s gaining the right to vote and to pay tribute to the local women who worked tirelessly for that right to vote.

At events, I often speak about the ladies who founded our League. One of the women I am most fond of is Minnie Stanley, our first female president. From the beginning Minnie understood the significance and purpose of the League of Women Voters; she didn’t want the League to be another woman’s organization, but rather an organization of women who would become an educational factor in the city.

For 99 years we have followed Minnie’s vision with pro and con discussions on issues of importance. In September our League will begin producing a live, monthly call-in program on DATV to discuss local, state, and national issues.

All of this is exciting work, but what I believe would make Minnie most proud is continuing her idea of the League’s being a trusted resource of educational information. From mimeograph to internet, for 99 years, the Dayton League has continued to earn the respect and trust of our community through the publication of the annual Voters Guide. As surely as Minnie was proud of the 1920 League, I am inspired by the work we continue to do, especially the good-natured teamwork of the committee who flawlessly pull the Guide together year after year.

In this “off year” election, there are candidates in every town, township, and village running for offices of mayor, city council, and school board. Due to the number of races, the 2019 Guide will grow from 20 pages to potentially 36. Our distribution is over 120,000 hard copies throughout the greater Dayton area, with thousands more viewing it on our website and online at Vote 411.

Depending on the year, we spend $18,000 to $20,000 to produce the Guide, but the value to the community is priceless. Voters tell us they could not go to the polls without it; for us, it’s the continuation of Minnie’s mission to be that valued educational resource.

To all of you who generously donated this year, my heartfelt thanks for being part of the mission and the League’s ongoing nonpartisan goal to make democracy work.

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

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**Education Fund—a 501(c)(3):**

On **Tuesday, October 29**, from 5:30-7:30 pm, the Dayton League is hosting a forum on a hot-button issue in Ohio: partisan gerrymandering. Featured at the event will be Jen Miller, executive director of the Ohio League of Women Voters, fresh from her testimony before a three-judge panel convened to determine the constitutionality of Ohio’s congressional map. She’ll be joined by Dr. Richard Gunther, Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University. Dr. Gunther is the author or editor of 14 books; and the recipient of numerous awards, including OSU’s Faculty Award for Distinguished University Service.

The ruling pertaining to partisan gerrymandering handed down by the Supreme Court in June raised the stakes for next year’s elections. As reported in the *New York Times* (6/27/19):

> But far from settling these questions, the court has unleashed even higher-pitched and partisan struggles over once-settled aspects of the country’s governance, placing greater pressures on the nation’s political system.

Join the discussion being held at the **University of Dayton River Campus** at 1700 S. Patterson Blvd, Dayton. The session will be free and open to the public.

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Get Tickets Now for 100th Anniversary Event

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. 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.
Celebrating Women in Books

The next event in the Dayton League’s reading series is at Basil’s on Market, 312 N. Patterson Blvd. in Dayton on Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing *The Hello Girls: America’s First Women Soldiers*, by Elizabeth Cobbs. This is the story of how America’s first women soldiers helped win World War I, earned the vote, and fought in the U.S. Army in 1918. The U.S. Army Signal Corps sent 223 women to France. They were the masters of the latest technology—the telephone switchboard. They were responsible for connecting telephone lines and dispatching messages between units and command posts.

RSVP by Friday, November 8, to D.J. Shade at wendellshade@gmail.com, in order to give the restaurant a head count.

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Upcoming

**Speakers Bureau**

**Engagements**

**LWV Greater Dayton**

**October 4, 11:30 to 12:15 pm**
Person/Organization: Kim Bishop, Dayton Metro Library, 496.8671
KBishop@daytonmetrolibrary.org
Topic: 30-minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage, in-service for library staff
Location: Downtown branch, Dayton Metro Library, 215 E Third Street, Dayton 45402

**October 24, 10:45 am to Noon**
Person/Organization: Toni Williams, Vandalia Senior Citizen Center, 898.1232
twilliams@vandaliaohio.org
Topic: One-hour presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: Vandalia Senior Citizen Center, 21 Tionda Drive S, Vandalia 45377

**November 9, 10:00 am breakfast meeting**
Person/Organization: Shirley Mlod, Alpha Delta Kappa Sorority, current and retired teachers sorority, 654.9635
Topic: 30-minute presentation on History of Women’s Suffrage
Location: member home (Rachael), 2633 Sugar Tree Trail, New Carlisle 45344

For more information, contact Dianne Herman, Dianneherman2@gmail.com
As we are ramping up for voter registration and elections this fall here at the LWV, we’re excited and proud to announce that we have relaunched our election information website, VOTE411.org with a new look and feel! Informing voters has been our brand for nearly 100 years and, through VOTE411.org, we reached more than five million voters in 2018.

We are thrilled to be able to help visitors more easily navigate VOTE411.org, with better user experience and accessibility for the everyday voter. With the new design, you will be able to find the information you need more quickly—registering to vote, learning what’s on your ballot, hearing what candidates have to say about the issues, finding your polling place, and more. We’re here to help every step of the way and take the guesswork out of voting.

With voter registration deadlines and election dates quickly approaching, not to mention the important 2020 elections happening next year, now is the time to get the election information you need. Don’t forget to spread the word to your friends and family: now is the time to learn about the candidates and issues and get ready to vote!

~Jeanette Senecal
Senior Director of Mission Impact, LWVUS

**TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS:**
Register to Vote by October 9

- Register to vote, or check your voter registration online at the Ohio Secretary of State’s website at [https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/ovru](https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/ovru)
- Register or update your registration at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Pick up a hard copy voter registration form at your local library, high school, city or county clerk’s office, or public assistance office
- Request a hard copy voter registration form over the phone from your county Board of Elections
- Military and overseas voters have a new tool available at [https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote](https://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/vote)
The following opinion piece by Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley appeared in the August 23 Washington Post. In light of our League of Women Voters position on gun safety and reform, we reprint her opinion article this month.

We owe it to mass shooting victims to take action on gun control

DAYTON, Ohio — During Easter weekend in March 1913, the already-saturated levies holding back the swollen Great Miami River in Dayton, Ohio, finally gave way. Parts of the city were under 20 feet of water. Families were forced into their attics for safety. Many of these Daytonians sat in the dark, praying for deliverance and vowing that they would help rebuild their city to ensure that such a catastrophe never happened again.

When the water receded several days later, 65,000 people had lost their homes. The coroner listed 92 dead, but estimates of the actual total range as high as 300. “Remember the promises you made in the attic” became the rallying cry of the campaign to rebuild Dayton and construct the comprehensive flood-control system that has held the river back for more than a century.

Today, Dayton is once again confronted by tragedy. On Aug. 4, a gunman opened fire in our crowded Oregon District, a neighborhood of locally owned bars, restaurants and shops. In less than a minute, nine were dead and at least 27 were injured. As they mourned, Daytonians made clear what they wanted from their elected officials. When Gov. Mike DeWine took the stage at a vigil that evening, people shouted in frustration, “Do something!”

In response, the governor, President Trump and other elected officials, including me, promised action in this time of crisis. We must keep the promises that we have made to try to prevent further tragedies.

The head winds against change are fierce. Some argue that these mass shootings can’t be stopped, except by a good guy with a gun who takes on the bad guy with a gun. Yet in Dayton, there were six good guys with guns — Dayton Police officers — just around the corner. Despite their quick response, security video shows that the gunman was still able to kill nine people in about 32 seconds. What more can we ask of first responders?

Others argue that we must solely focus energy on improving mental-health care. That is important but deeply inadequate. Research has consistently shown that mental-health issues are not the cause of most mass shootings. In any case, there are indications the shooter in Dayton was receiving mental-health treatment before the attack. The common thread among these catastrophic shootings is the easy access to high-powered weapons. Universal background checks, extreme-risk protection orders, and limits on assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines are all overwhelmingly popular policy ideas and would surely save lives.

In Ohio, we are intent on making meaningful progress with common-sense gun laws that I hope will provide an impetus for reforms across the country. So far, many Republicans nationally have refused to take up gun-reform measures — despite the recent carnage in Dayton, El Paso and Gilroy, Calif. — but here in Ohio, our Republican governor has listened to the calls at the vigil to “do something.” He introduced a 17-point plan that includes universal background checks and extreme-risk protection protocols. Dayton’s GOP Rep. Michael R. Turner, who had an A rating from the National Rifle Association, has now come out in support of an assault-weapons ban.

As a Democrat, I have no illusions about how difficult it will be to pass DeWine’s proposals in the Republican-controlled Ohio legislature or to pass similar proposals languishing in Congress. But I am heartened by signs of a bipartisan coalition forming in Ohio and across the country to show that real change is possible. More than 250 mayors — Democrats, Republicans and independents — signed a letter earlier this month urging Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to take up common-sense reforms. No mayor wants to get the phone call or the middle-of-the-night knock on the door that I did on Aug. 4. I believe that the tragedies in Dayton and El Paso are changing the debate across the nation.

A few weeks ago, 27-year-old Lois Oglesby went to meet friends in the Oregon District — it was her first time out since having her second child a few months earlier. Her celebratory evening abruptly turned to tragedy as the gunman’s shots rang out and struck her. In her last moments, Oglesby wasn’t thinking of herself, she was thinking of her family. She called her partner, conveying a message that let her children know what they surely already did — that she loved them more than anything.

It now falls on us to build the community that will help bring up Oglesby’s children. We owe it to them to keep the fervent promises we made during a time of crisis. We owe it to them to do something.
Volunteer Voices

Two Events to Help New Members Get On Board with the League

Leslie Merry, the Dayton League’s new Membership Director, is planning two New Member events. The first event will be November 13, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, at Leslie and Rem Merry’s home at 7710 Glenbrier Place, Centerville 45459. RSVP by November 6 to merryleslie@sbcglobal.net if you plan to attend. Any member who has joined the League within the past three years is encouraged to attend—along with board members, committee chairs, and other League members wishing to get acquainted. Leslie plans to host a second event in Spring 2020.

Leslie joined the League in late 2016 and is interested in finding ways to harness the energy and passion of other “newer” League members. She says, “I’d like new members to have an opportunity to meet our board members as well as committee chairs and other League members to find out how to get involved!” Leslie is looking for a few League members who would like to help her plan New Member events. To be part of the Membership Committee or to share your ideas on ways to welcome new members, contact Leslie Merry at merryleslie@sbcglobal.net.

For other ways to volunteer, contact Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator, at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

Jennifer Giessler
6122 Fireside Dr., Apt. C
Centerville, OH 45459
giesslerjen@hotmail.com

Beverly Fanz
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Kettering, OH 45429
fanzbeverly@gmail.com

Darryl Fairchild
1404 Harvard Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45406-5960

Kristi Wettstone
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Oxford, OH 45056
wettsks@miamioh.edu

Margaret Kruckemeyer
2935 Tara Trail
Beavercreek, OH 45434
mkruck@aol.com

Sandra J. Williams
273 Shadywood Dr.
Dayton, OH 45415
sandy1williams@aol.com
"Now that you have the vote, what are you going to do with it?"

-founder Carrie Chapman Catt

Current Resident or:

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

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