



November 2020

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THE VOTER

A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

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100 YEARS STRONG
LEAGUE of
WOMEN VOTERS
LWV
1920 - 2020

1920 - 2020

THIS is Lucy Anne's Desk



For the last several years, Lucy Anne McKosky has led a team of dedicated volunteers who turn volumes of candidate emails and written submissions into the most sought-after service the League provides, our annual *Voters Guide*.

With the addition of early voting hours, the pressure to get the *Guide* on the street can be intense. I don't see much of Lucy Anne; generally when she is in, Lucy Anne is buried in her thoughts, dropping by the office days, evenings, weekends, or off proofing the *Guide* in a socially-distanced conference room. Occasionally she pops into my space for updates/opinions/decisions, but her desk is generally my cue that she is around and busy.

The most amazing piece of producing the *Guide* is that it must be assembled and ready for print within a few weeks – it can't go to print until every candidate is certified in Montgomery & Greene Counties and all issues on the ballot are approved. With the onset of early voting, the timeline has tightened; meanwhile, the phone is ringing off the hook from a loyal public that depends on the *Guide* to help them cast their ballots.

I never touch Lucy Anne's desk. If I leave something for her, I place it on her chair. What may look like a mess to the rest of us, is the organized confusion of her well-oiled system. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this woman. She is a walking encyclopedia of every election detail, as well as being incredible with her volunteers and never thrown by anything.

Several years ago, I attended an event with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. It was proposed at that event that the League publish the *Voters Guide* in Spanish. I remember approaching Lucy Anne with this brave new idea. Both of us were relatively new in our positions, we were in the middle of an election season, and I was hesitant to even make the suggestion. For Lucy Anne it was literally seconds before she said "Sure," and went on her way. Obviously, the Hispanic version demands a second set of volunteer translators and proofers within the same tight timeline, but she made it happen. It was then and still remains a source of pride, as we are one of only a few Leagues in the country to provide our *Guide* in two languages.

The other day I asked Lucy Anne if she would write a thank-you article for her wonderful volunteers. She of course answered "Sure."

I sincerely thank them as well, but this article is mine, just for Lucy Anne, with my sincere gratitude and appreciation. I thank Lucy Anne for a consistently incredible job that our League is proud of, and for a quality product the community can trust.

Do I mean every word of this? "Sure."

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

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Penny Wolff
Women's History Project
Greene County

*In-kind contribution

**In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

General Fund—a 501(c)(4)entity

Rebecca Bowman, Lee and Pat Bradley-Falke, Catherine C. Clark, Linda R. Fish, Theresa Gasper, Dianne Herman, Rebecca and Dennis Jarvi, Matt and Irena Joseph, Montgomery County Auditor Karl L. Keith, Montgomery County Commissioner Debbie Lieberman and Clayton Council Member Dennis Lieberman, James Long, Rhine McLin, Dayton City Commissioner Jeffrey Mims Jr., Margaret Quinn and Ron Pohlman, Ann and John McDonough, Union City Council Member Robin Perkins, Alan and Beth Schaeffer, Kaye Stealey, Pat Torvik, Carol Winslow

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity

Anonymous
Kaye Stealey



We cordially invite you to a

Zoom Holiday Party

**Tuesday, December 15
7-8:30pm**

to celebrate the wrap-up of our League's 100th Anniversary and the holiday season too – so wear your holiday sweater and bring your favorite beverage!



We celebrate the past:

For your entertainment, we will treat you to a live *Play from the Past*. "Mystery" actors and actresses from 1900 will appear on your screen to tell you in person exactly how it was back in the early 1900s when they fought for voting rights for women.

We remember the present:

Sprinkled within the play will be some noteworthy statistics about accomplishments of our own League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area.

We commit to the future:

Join us Tuesday, December 15, from 7-8:30 pm as we leap forward into our next century and continue the commitment to provide nonpartisan information about candidates and issues.

Thank you for your \$20 donation to join our Zoom Holiday Party; your donation will help us keep the lights on and the doors open during these challenging times. Paid League members can have as many of their non-League member friends join them at the party that night for free. PLUS, every paying League member will automatically be eligible for a couple of mystery prizes just by sending in that \$20 reservation by Friday, December 4.

Non-League-members may also donate \$20 to be eligible for the door prizes.

No later than: Friday, December 4, please mail your \$20 check to LWVGDA, 127 N Ludlow St, Dayton, OH 45402. Include your current email address so that we can email you the access info for you to join us on December 15 or use PayPal through our website, www.LWVDayton.org, and remember to include your email address in that transaction.

Do it now before you forget!



MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations



Longtime League member **Carol Graff** was recently chosen for a Wright State Alumni Association's 2020 Honorary Alumni Award. WSU annually selects a series of winners from a pool of over 111,000 in five award categories, celebrating accomplished individuals with connections to the school.

A Beavercreek resident, Graff had a 17-year run as an adjunct instructor in WSU's College of Engineering and Computer Science. She had multiple roles as the first woman trustee in Beavercreek Township and the first woman appointed to Beavercreek's Board of Zoning Appeals. She also sat on the city council, and was elected Beavercreek's first female mayor in 1986.

Graff said that being the recipient of the Honorary Alumni award was "a pleasant surprise." The League offers its congratulations to her for the honor.

In Memorium



Brenda Whitney

Brenda Whitney was an active member in the Greater Dayton Area League of Women Voters for 16 years. She chaired the Funding and Development committee from 2008 until 2016. Her leadership led to the creation of the League's signature events Dine & Dish, Capitol Chat, and Dangerous Dames of Dayton. She was also an avid supporter of the Leadership Circle and the League's annual *Voters Guide*.

During her career, Brenda was the Executive Director of Resident Home Association of Dayton and was a leader and advocate on local, regional, and state levels for people with disabilities. She also served as President of the Ohio Provider Resource Association, and was recognized statewide in 1993 with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2000 with the Mary O'Leary Lifetime Achievement award for her outstanding dedicated service to the Resident Home Association.

Our sympathy goes out to her family and friends and her best friend, soul mate and partner William Boots Vaughn.



Shirley Omietanski

The League of Women Voters mourns the death of longtime member Shirley Omietanski.

Shirley was not only the first female Miami Township trustee, she was also a strong voice for the township's park system and for preservation of the land. During her nearly 30 years as a trustee, she was determined to follow through on completion of important improvements to the construction of the police station and to preserving many historic sites.

Shirley will be missed by the members of the League, and certainly by her many admirers in Miami Township. The League sends sincere condolences to Shirley's family.



Kathryn Van der Heiden
Grover Criswell
 1330 Rice Rd
 Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Catherine Roma
 420 N Winter St
 Yellow Springs, OH 45387

STATE LEAGUE NEWS



Ballot Box Fight Vindicates Constitutional Rights

On October 8, 2020 Federal Judge Dan Polster ruled against Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose's decision to allow no ballot drop boxes anywhere other than at each county's Board of Elections.

Although LaRose has decided to appeal his decision, Judge Polster refused to allow more time for LaRose to do so, stating that any delay would place an undue burden on larger counties in the state, such as Cuyahoga, and could cause a "very serious, looming problem" in assuring that everyone has access to voting.

"While it may be said that the 7,903 registered voters in Noble County may find a single drop box location sufficient, the record demonstrates that the 858,041 registered voters in Cuyahoga County will likely not," wrote Polster. His opinion also included some harsh words for LaRose. "The Secretary is continuing to restrict boards from implementing off-site collection, and he appears to be doing so in an arbitrary manner," Polster wrote. "The Court has given the Secretary every opportunity to address the problem ... and he has been unwilling or unable to do so."

Our League joined other voting rights groups in the hard-fought legal battle for the extra off-site boxes. Ohio League of Women Voters Executive Director Jen Miller said "We implore Secretary LaRose not to appeal this decision, but instead to work with elections officials on next steps."

"Voters deserve better access during this historic election, and the courts agree with us."

In our daily lives, coping with COVID-19 probably includes a little (or a lot) of TV and movie watching for entertainment. Here is a short list of some movies that highlight voting rights. Enjoy and enrich yourselves with these titles, among many others:

All In: The Fight for Democracy This documentary features Stacy Abrams' 2018 gubernatorial race in Georgia, and looks at the history and continuing issue of voter suppression. Currently streaming on Amazon Prime.

Freedom Summer This 2014 documentary tells the story of the 700 student volunteers who helped register Black voters in Mississippi during the deadly summer of 1964. Free to stream with PBS app.

Iron-Jawed Angels This 2004 drama tells the story of Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Carrie Chapman Catt and their battle for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. Currently streaming on HBO.

John Lewis: Good Trouble Covers the long, storied career of the late US Representative John Lewis, champion of civil rights for more than 60 years. Rent for \$4.99 on Amazon Prime Cinema.

Selma This 2014 historical drama is based on the true story of the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches led by Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis. Free to stream on the FX Now app.

Suffragette This powerful 2015 drama looks at the battle for the vote undertaken by the women of Britain beginning in 1912. Currently streaming on Netflix.

The Vote This 2-part documentary looks at the early years of women's suffrage, leading up to the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment. Free to stream on the PBS app.



2020 Voters Guide Reaches 150,000+ Thanks to Army of Volunteers and Donors

This year's elections are shaping up to be among the most dramatic and consequential we've ever seen. The League's nonpartisan, ad-free *Voters Guide* has been more important than ever in helping voters sift through the media cacophony to select the best candidates to represent them.

During the second week of October, over 150,000 copies of the *Voters Guide* blanketed Montgomery and Greene Counties. Subscribers to the *Dayton Daily News* and suburban newspapers received the *Guide* with their papers. *Guides* were also available to the public at libraries, churches, and other community locations. The Spanish edition of the *Guide* was distributed by *La Vanguardia Hoy* and the Dayton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Putting out the *Voters Guide* in two languages and paper and online formats was a real team effort and took hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. The COVID-19 pandemic restrictions required a creative approach so that volunteers could work from home or in very small groups in the office. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, we met all commitments and made all our deadlines.

Members of this year's *Voters Guide* team include Bonnie Buddendeck, Maria Cleary, Peggy Coale, Diane Gentner, Jo Lovelace Hill, Jessica Hunter, Mary Lou Baker Jones, Deb Lukjanovs, Kyndall Ostermann, Deborah Spears, Pat Stidham, and Patsy Thurin. Claudia Cortez-Reinhardt,

Lillian Moskeland, Derek Petrey, and Manuel Acosta provided the Spanish translation. The dramatic cover design is the work of Maggie Cleary, daughter of team member Maria Cleary and a recent fine arts graduate of UC. Many thanks to Maggie and to Maria!

Distributing over 150,000 copies of the *Guide* is also a major operation. Over 50,000 were distributed with local newspapers, and the rest were delivered to locations throughout Montgomery and Greene Counties. As distribution coordinator, Michelle Arostegui organized dozens of League members and friends to distribute thousands of copies to over 150 locations, including libraries, schools, local businesses, senior living centers, and the Montgomery County jail.

Many in the community don't realize that the League itself funds the production and distribution of the *Voters Guide*. This year's *Guide* required a major fundraising effort to bring in the \$22,500 needed for the broad distribution we undertook. Susan Hesselgesser deserves a lot of credit for making it happen, and thanks go to all the League members and friends who contributed to make this vital community service possible.

~*Lucy Anne McKosky, Voters Guide Editor*



National Voting Registration Day outside LWVGDA offices September 22, 2020

Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in voter registrations. This year was a challenge due to the pandemic, but it did not stop you. To thank you adequately is impossible. I know that you spent your personal time to register voters. Your efforts to register voters have been above AWESOME. Without your commitment and support in the mission of the League, none of this would have happened.

Thank you sincerely for all of your unselfish participation in registering voters.

~*Jo Lovelace Hill, Voter Registration Coordinator*

VOLUNTEER VOICES



Addressing a Hunger Crisis

with Debbie Gibson and Yvonne Curington

Debbie Gibson and Yvonne Curington help to alleviate hunger by coordinating a League effort with House of Bread (HOB), a Dayton resource founded in 1983 on the basic principle that no one deserves to go hungry. Since COVID-19, HOB has been unable to utilize volunteers or seat guests indoors, and has been providing a daily hot lunch to go. Debbie and Yvonne say they miss the experience of preparing and serving lunch there, and hope to be able to work side-by-side in the kitchen with the staff and other volunteers again, serving lunch to the community.

But right now, they are worried. Hunger is a growing problem nationally, as millions of people have lost jobs due to COVID-19. In the September 28, 2020 issue of the *Dayton Daily News*, an article referenced the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities which found “847,000 adults in Ohio, or 11%, reported their household sometimes or often didn’t have enough to eat in the last seven days.” Based on data collected through the US Census Bureau, the rate of food hardship is several times higher now than it was before the pandemic. A 2017 survey noted that one in six households in the city of Dayton experienced food hardship. **THIS IS A CRISIS!**

What if each League member chose one way to help in November, to DO ONE THING to mitigate hunger? What a difference we would make! Below are just a few ideas:

Donate money online or through the mail to **House of Bread** or **The Foodbank, Inc.** Both are nonprofit organizations. A simple Google search will find their websites with a donate button. The Foodbank website also includes a list of food donation sites where food or paper products can be dropped off.

Checks can be mailed to:

- **House of Bread**, PO Box 60277, Dayton, OH 45406-0277
- **The Foodbank, Inc.**, 56 Armor Place, Dayton, OH 45417

If you have questions about food hardship or donations, want to volunteer, or are looking for food resources for yourself or a loved one, please contact me. If you have a story related to hunger in Dayton or another way to volunteer, I’d love to hear it!

~ **Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator**
laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net, 937.409.0536

Talbot Tower
127 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

*"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 LIKE and SHARE our page with friends and family!

Current Resident or:

November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Early Voting 1 pm – 5 pm	2 Early Voting 8 am – 5 pm Absentee Ballots must be post- marked or delivered in person to BOE by 7:30 pm	3 ELECTION DAY	4	5	6	7
8		10	11	12	13 Last day for BOE to receive ballots by mail that have been postmarked on or before Nov 2	14
15	16	17	18	19		21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING	27	28
29	30					