



THE VOTER

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

WEBSITE: lwvdayton.org | EMAIL: league@lwvdayton.org | PHONE: 937.228.4041 |



1920 - 2020



We can all agree; 2020 has made its mark on us: wildfires, hurricanes, murder hornets, “near-miss” asteroids, COVID-19, and so much more.

Thinking back to March, when the “crazy” became a reality, I am thankful; thankful that on March 7, we were not yet aware of the coronavirus as we celebrated Dangerous Dames and 100 years of women having the right to vote. Who knew that night how long it would be until we would be together again, laughing and talking?

By the following week, everything was closing, except our League. We were one of the few businesses downtown who held

our ground—it was the primary election after all, but there was so much more that we wanted to do. We had to figure out how to continue our nonpartisan education and also help our community.

Within days, members were making masks for Miami Valley Hospital; that project got the attention of the Ohio Department of Health, as they needed help replacing the elastic on the much needed N95 masks. Our volunteers never flinched, searching the internet for the elusive elastic to do the repairs. Hundreds and hundreds of masks were made or restored. Thanks to the extra efforts of Rebecca Jarvi, we took on the challenge of assisting the deaf community with masks made with clear plastic mouth panels so that deaf citizens could safely read lips and communicate with their family members and social workers.

Well-trained volunteers, following strict safety practices, held dozens of voter registration drives.

In partnership with our members and community, our League simultaneously raised funds for the *Voters Guide* and the Leadership Circle, ensuring we would be able to not only keep the lights on and the doors open, but also produce our annual *Voters Guide*.

Thanks to a willing handful of mask-wearing members who unloaded 40,000 *Guides* from a truck into many car trunks, the *Guide* hit the streets for doorstep deliveries to libraries, businesses, senior facilities, and college campuses.

We Zoomed candidate interviews for the 2020 election in cooperation with Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC), and our League now meets via Zoom for all board and committee meetings.

Most importantly, we have been here to answer the phones, sometimes one of the most important things we do, especially in uncertain times. We have been a voice on the other end of the line who not only answers questions, but also listens to a community who just needs someone to be there. Not our mission? Maybe not, but humanity is a social service. I am grateful our office manager Bobbie is a good listener. Together we answer a lot of calls from people who get off topic once their election question is answered. It takes time to listen, but it is worth the effort.

2020 made its mark; but I witnessed a powerful 100th year for our League —we celebrated, rallied around our community, and kept to our mission. As your Executive Director, I am consistently touched by the kindness, generosity, and spirit of our membership. I cannot thank you enough for never saying never.

Who knows what 2021 will bring? Whatever it is, I know—we’ve got this!

~**Susan Hesselgesser,**
Executive Director, LWVGDA

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

MAJOR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

GOVERNOR (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher & Dona C. Fletcher
Theresa Gasper

SENATE (\$500 - \$999)

Lee & Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
Vincent & Andrea Cobb
Dayton Metro Library
Debbie Feldman
Lisa Hauer and Sue Spiegel
Kendall Printing*

Sandra McHugh & Jerry Sutton
Michael & Margot Merz
Sandra Neargarder
David & Sharen Neuhardt
Jenell Ross
Sinclair College
Stephanie A. Smith
The Rubi Girls
Judy & Tom Thompson
Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn
Carol Winslow

HOUSE (\$250 - \$499)

Anonymous
John & Susan Hesselgesser**
Herbert Lee
Rebecca Morgann
Kathleen Peoples
Margaret Quinn & Ron Pohlman
Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County
Commissioner
Tom & Sandy Williams
Joyce Young

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

CURRENT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous
Nancy Adkins**
Susan Barde
Charles D. Berry
Peggy Berry
David & Susan Bodary
Frieda and Mike Brigner
Peggy Coale
Pat Bradley-Falke
Frieda & Mike Brigner
Barbara Buddendeck**
Vincent & Andrea Cobb

DATV*
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Fletcher
Bill Gerhard, in memory of
Judy Gerhard
Carol Graff, in memory of
Bryon L. Schatzley
Sharon Harmer
Susan Hesselgesser
Hanauer & Spiegel Fund
Laurel and Matthew Kerr
Kendall Printing*
Paul Lamberger
Lepla Associates, Ltd.

LWVO Voter Registration Grant
Michelle M. Maciorowski Law
Paula MacIlwaine – Women
Making A Difference
Earl McDaniel
Pat & Jackie McGohan
Sandy McHugh & Jerry Sutton
Anthony McIlvaine
Rebecca Morgann
Marian Simmons Estate Bequest
MVCC*
Network for Good
Preferred Planning Associates

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur
Macy Reynolds
Gayle Rominger
Sinclair College
Jeanette Schultz
Dr. William Spon &
Dr. Margaret Dunn
The Virginia W. Kettering
Foundation
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: Lisa Hanauer, Vincent and Marigrace Ryan, Sinclair Community College, Joyce Young

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity: LaTonia McCane



We cordially invite you to a

Zoom Holiday Party

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

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!



Your \$20 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 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.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS GREATER DAYTON



CAPITOL CHAT

Capitol Chat ZOOM

Tuesday, January 12, from 7-8 pm

For a \$20 donation on a cold night in January, you can join us from the comfort of your easy chair as we interview term-limited Senator Peggy Lehner, Representative Jim Butler, and Representative Fred Strahorn, who have all done an excellent job of serving our community for a number of years.

Before opening up the floor to questions from our audience, our moderator will ask each speaker to take a few minutes to talk about their time in political office—what surprised them, or what was their greatest achievement, or what is their hope for the future.

Check our website www.lwvdayton.org for details.

Also watch our website www.lwvdayton.org for information on the annual Program Planning Meeting, slated for January 26, and for developments regarding our March 2021 Dangerous Dames of Dayton

MEMBER NEWS



Lucinda Williams Adams Way

Tom Archdeacon has nothing on us!

Recently Dayton Daily News sports editor Tom Archdeacon wrote a story about one of Dayton's Olympic champions, Lucinda Williams Adams. Lucinda is one of the first African American females to compete and win in the Olympic games of 1956 and 1960. She married and moved to Dayton, where she spent 36 years in the Dayton Public School System, first as a teacher at Meadowdale and Roosevelt High Schools, and then as an administrator in charge of each girl's health and physical education.

In March 2018, our League honored Lucinda as a Dangerous Dame of Dayton and arranged to have a street named in her honor. Mia Avenue, now also known as Lucinda Williams Adams Way, is close to her Dayton parish, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church, and the home she maintains in Dayton.

Many thanks to Lucinda's pastor, Herman Walker, our Funding and Development team, and member Jo Lovelace Hill for helping mark Lucinda's place in Dayton history.

In Memoriam

The League mourns the death of longtime member Sarah Deets. Sarah started her educational journey by earning a BS from Nebraska State Teachers College in 1943 and immediately began her teaching career. While she and her husband raised their three children, Sarah completed her PhD studies at WSU and then taught in the Beavercreek schools for many years. Sarah was a gentle, kind and educated force in our League and our community for many years. She had boundless energy and interests; she even rode elephants in Zimbabwe at age 96! Sarah moved to Naples, Florida in 2013 to be closer to her family. She passed away peacefully on October 14, 2020 at the age of 102.



Sarah Deets, 1917-2020



Kathleen Wilcox
2325 Jacaranda Dr
Beavercreek, OH 45431
wilcox.kathy@sbcglobal.net

Teresa Saxton
16 Prairie Place
Germantown, OH 45327
teresa.saxton@gmail.com

Amy Rohmiller
1179 E. David Dr
Kettering, OH 45429
arohmiller@gmail.com

OUR CIVIC DUTY HAS NOT ENDED

As I'm writing this, I have no idea as to the outcome of the 2020 election. What I do know is the turnout of voters participating in our democracy will probably exceed expectations. Partly, that can be due to the influence of ordinary citizens like Bill Franz who told the story of his mother Betty as a *Dayton Daily News* guest columnist. Betty lived in a nursing home that restricted her contacts with the outside world. She stopped voting in her 90s giving the rationale that the younger generation needed to take up civic duties. In 2020, the importance of the election led her to voice a desire to restart her voting life; however, she succumbed to COVID-19 before she could do so.

To honor his mother, Bill used his talent as a photographer and started posting pictures through his social media encouraging all to vote. "I agree with my mother that the country is in trouble and that the first step towards fixing things is voting."

Another favorite voter story is that of 94-year-old Mildred Madison. Part of her history of civic engagement includes becoming the first Black President of LWV Cleveland, and in that role, she succeeded in bringing the first



I am so deeply happy and thrilled the glass ceiling has been shattered! A WOMAN has won the Vice Presidency of the United States, 100 years after women won the hard-fought battle for the right to vote and 55 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act. "Herstory" is made—a victory for women, for young girls, for young girls of color. There is no barrier you can't shatter. This beautiful illustration portrays it so well.

~Andrea Cobb, LWVGDA President

presidential debate (Reagan vs. Carter) to the city. With pride, Mildred will tell you she has voted in every election—city, state, county, or federal—for the last 72 years. She is temporarily living with her son in Illinois, and her absentee ballot had not yet arrived from Michigan. So, rather than wait any longer, she enlisted her son to drive her to Michigan (a 600-mile trip) so she could vote in person.



So, the Democratic process survived the reality of voter suppression, voter intimidation, misinformation, disinformation, and all other tactics designed to influence the outcome of the election. Voting must always be fair, encouraged, and uncontentious. As new legislators convene, we, the citizens, must demand changes to our electoral system to restore faith and confidence in the process.

~Valerie Lee, Action Director



Kamala Harris/Ruby Bridges, created by Bria Goeller, incorporating a silhouette of Bridges from a 1964 Norman Rockwell painting.

STATE LEAGUE NEWS

LWVO State Advocacy Update

The end of the 2020 General Election will bring about another “lame duck” session in the Ohio General Assembly—the few weeks before a legislative session ends and many legislators are either termed or voted out. During this time, legislators work hard (and often with stealth) to see their priority issues to the finish line.

It is imperative that we closely follow key issues and priority legislation during this time and work hard to advocate for the issues that matter. **LWVO will be sending out regular updates, action alerts, and rapid response requests to our members and followers via email and social media in the coming weeks.** Legislators are counting on your not paying attention and thinking you can't make a difference. Let's prove them wrong! Here are some of the issues we'll be following:

- **Education: HB 305 Headed to the Finish Line:** School funding may soon get the overhaul that has been needed since 1997 when the Ohio Supreme Court found the system to be unconstitutional! This is a historic LWVO priority. Thanks to the diligence and perseverance of Rep. John Patterson and Rep. Bob Cupp, a high-quality proposal with bipartisan support in both houses was to be taken up in House and Senate Finance Committees during the week of November 10. Our advocacy can help preserve the bill as written and ensure action is taken by December.
- **Dark Money - Why House Bill 6 Should Be Repealed:** House Bill 6, signed into law in July 2019, was highly unpopular and contentious from the start, and was later to become the center of a scandal that brought light to the dangers behind dark money and shook the confidence and trust of Ohioans. Former House Speaker Larry Householder and others were charged with using dark money from FirstEnergy to finance the campaigns of candidates that would support the nuclear bailout. It was bad legislation from the start and must be repealed in order for trust to be restored.
- **Human Trafficking:** In July 2019 the Ohio Senate unanimously passed a bill that would protect 16 and 17-year-olds from prostitution charges in human trafficking cases. Unfortunately SB 13 is stuck in a House committee. Ohio is the only state in the nation that treats 16 and 17-year-olds differently from younger minors when it comes to **sex trafficking** cases. We can't allow this bill to die in the General Assembly.
- **Gun Violence is Spiking Across Ohio:** The pandemic has highlighted a number of problems, including easy access to arms. Gun violence has risen dramatically in Ohio amidst the societal unrest we face. Governor DeWine has repeatedly called for legislative action on gun violence, and it is time that bipartisan solutions are found that respect the rights of responsible gun owners while curbing violence.

Keep your eye out for Action Alerts from LWVO, both via email and on our website www.lwvohio.org



Passing the torch Making the dream a reality

During our hundredth year of having the vote, what better gift could our nation give our foremothers? Kamala Harris will be elected as not only the first woman, but the first woman of color to the second-highest office in the land. This brings the right to vote into sharp focus and foreshadows a hopeful future for women. As Ms. Harris said in her acceptance speech, “While I may be the first woman to hold this office, I won’t be the last.”

VOLUNTEER VOICES



League Studies: What Are They?

Studies regarding public policies issues come up infrequently, but are a signature component of the League. My curiosity was piqued after learning that a new study was being conducted, so I decided to learn more. Perhaps this is something you are curious about as well. Here's what I learned from the League websites, and talking with a few League members who have been part of the process:

Studies are the League's process for determining its position on public policy issues. This explanation of their use is from the Ohio LWV website (link below): "The League has a reputation for carefully and thoroughly studying issues—looking at all sides, accessing the best available research, consulting experts with contradictory philosophies, and considering both long-term and short-term consequences—in order to provide our members and the public with comprehensive, fair, and easy-to-understand educational materials."

Dianne Herman, LWVGDA Speakers Bureau Chair, recalls participating in a statewide study on the primary election system in Ohio several years ago. It involved a year of careful research and discussion among eight to ten people statewide, and included surveys, meetings with the mayor and political science professors, and literature reviews. After a position was taken, the LWV State Board sent questionnaires to local League chapters. All members had the opportunity to read the notice, attend a meeting to review and discuss the questionnaire, then come to a consensus. In the end, it was determined that no changes were needed to the primary election system.

Sue Hesselgesser, LWVGDA Executive Director, also remembers participating in a study about the environment in much the same way described above. Sue recalls the experience as very interesting and fun, due to the camaraderie and smart conversation.

So, you may be wondering about the newest issue being studied. Val Lee, Dayton LWVGDA Action Chair, is leading the local phase of this study and assembling a small group of people with unique and relevant perspectives on the issue (described below) of arming school personnel. Dianne Herman is helping to coordinate this effort.

Arming School Personnel Study

Due to a loophole in the Gun-Free School Zones Act (a 1990 federal law), Ohio school districts can choose to arm school personnel without community knowledge. The purpose of this study is to assess the impact on the health and safety of students, school personnel, and communities when school personnel are armed while on school grounds. The scope includes risk of harm to students, school personnel, and communities; mishandling of firearms; training; cost; affordability; and liability issues.

If you have received an email from Val about participating in the local phase of this study, it's because you have a unique perspective as an educator, school employee, board member, parent, legal expert, or a gun safety or gun rights advocate. Your perspective is important, valued, and needed.

Still curious? For more information about current positions the state or national League has taken on public policy issues, visit Ohio's LWV website at <https://www.lwvohio.org/positions-and-studies-1> for more information.

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator

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

*"Now that you have the vote,
what are you going to do with it?"*

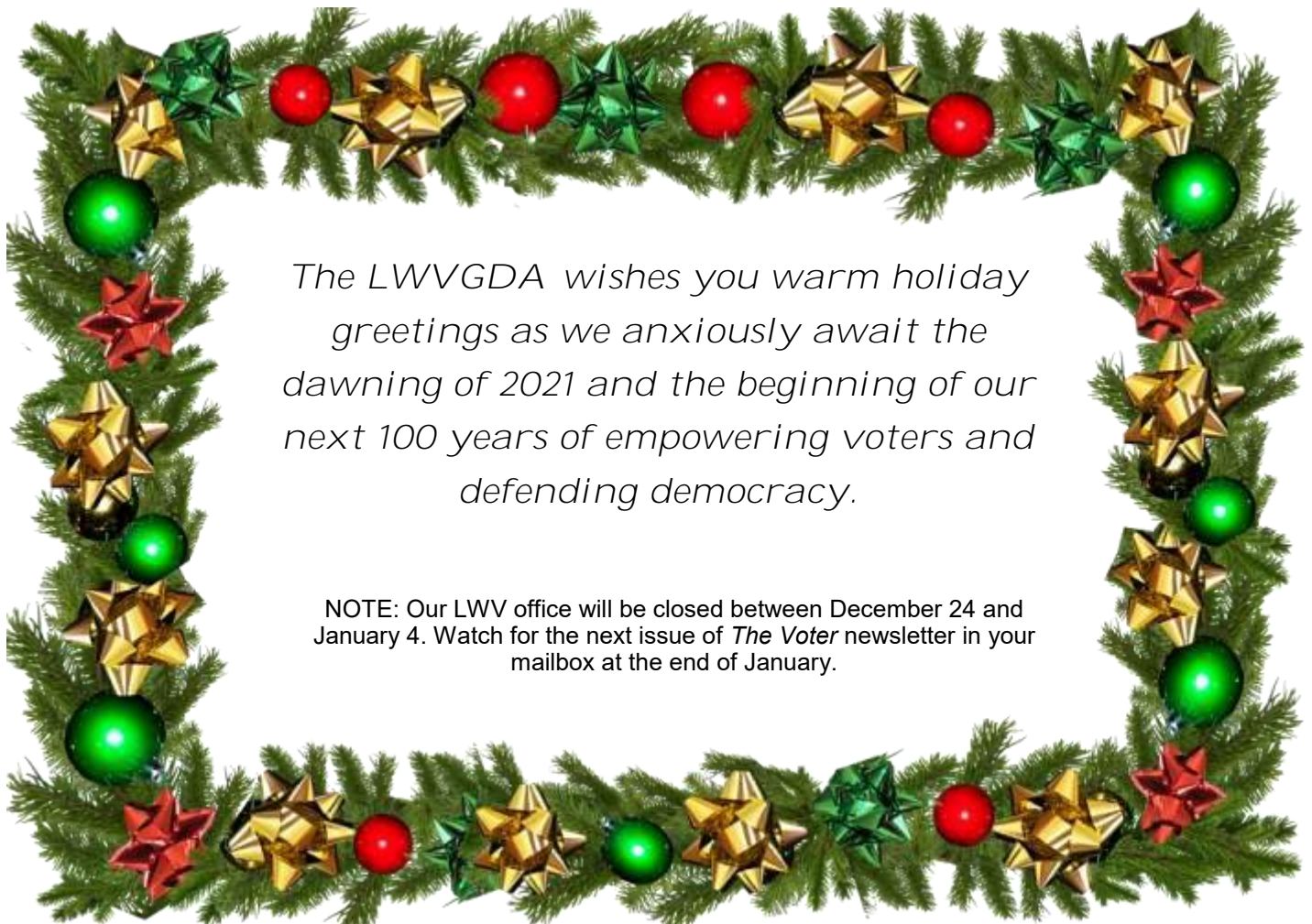
-founder Carrie Chapman Catt



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:



*The LWVGDA wishes you warm holiday
greetings as we anxiously await the
dawning of 2021 and the beginning of our
next 100 years of empowering voters and
defending democracy.*

NOTE: Our LWV office will be closed between December 24 and
January 4. Watch for the next issue of *The Voter* newsletter in your
mailbox at the end of January.