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# THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2020

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## Welcome 2021!

Other than Y2K, I do not remember a year that has been more welcomed than 2021. Though celebrations of its coming were certainly tempered, the anticipation of better things ahead made us more eager for the crystal ball to drop at midnight.

If one could feel sorry for a year, I would wrap my arms around 2021. The expectations we have pinned on the next 12 months are high, yet COVID-19 not only remains, it has mutated into a faster spreading version of its horrible self. Vaccinations are here; now, we need to find a way to get 328.2 million people vaccinated – TWICE. Go for it 2021, we are ready!

It's easy to make 2020 the fall guy here, as through the year we survived wildfires and floods, killer hornets, hurricanes, and masking. We divided over issues of race and diversity and faced social distancing of a personal and political nature, yet as families, communities, and country, we came together as we shared reflection, grief, and deep compassion over the sad and painful loss of 353,000 loving souls.

COVID-19, much like the *Grinch Who Stole Christmas*, swept in. But as in the story, when the Grinch looked among the havoc he had caused, he realized the resilience of humanity; that happiness is not in things, events, ball games, or celebrations galore, but that maybe humanity is a little bit more.

2020 reminded us to slow down, to appreciate our families and friends. To make phone calls rather than send emails. To end conversations with “take care” or “stay safe.” To appreciate visiting loved ones through windows, or playing board games with our kids. To relish a book, or make masks for friends. To tip the pizza delivery guy double, or to pray wherever we happen to be. Mostly, we redefined our heroes as the frontline responders, nurses, and the clerks who stock the shelves at Kroger.

Certainly 2020 deserves no medals, but we do. We have learned to be more resilient, more thoughtful, and to value the things we took for granted. We are tougher than we thought, maybe better than we were, and for that, I am grateful.

Happy New Year!



*~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)**

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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  
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  
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Michelle M. Maciorowski Law  
Paula MacIlwaine – Women  
Making A Difference  
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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:* Janet Hess, Carolyn Ray, Wilma Tiger, Yellow Springs Library

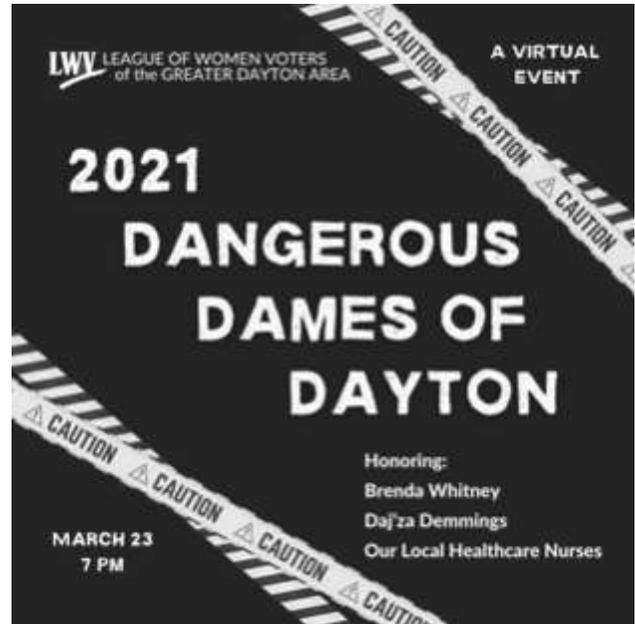
*Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity:* Dignity Dayton, Wolfgang & Diane Ege, Jennifer Harris, Eleanor & Raymond Must, Virginia Platt in memory of Rita Platt, Westminster Presbyterian Church

We  
LOVE  
Our Contributors



***Dangerous Dames of Dayton 2021***  
***is coming your way virtually***  
***March 23***  
***from 7pm to 8:30 pm***

**Announcing our Guest Speaker:**  
**Jana Collier, Publisher,**  
**Cox Enterprises Ohio Newspapers**



**We hope that you will be able to join us as we honor this year's Dangerous Dames of Dayton:**

**Brenda Whitney (posthumously):** For over three decades, Brenda advocated for the dignity of the mentally challenged in our area. She changed zoning laws and “sweet-talked” Dayton area residents into “allowing” homes for challenged people in THEIR neighborhoods. She was a leader in the closing of state institutions and the re-integration of people with developmental disabilities into their communities. She championed our forgotten people.

**Daj'za Demmings:** Founder of Young Black Professionals, and a true community servant who organized food and water deliveries after the Trotwood tornado and found donors to get 40 Wilberforce students a means to go home when COVID-19 broke out and Wilberforce closed. She also arranged for hundreds of Thanksgiving dinners and winter preparation kits for those in need.

**All our local Health Care Nurses:** These professionals have worked fearlessly and tirelessly during the pandemic. Sharon Hawkins, President of the Ohio Nurses Association (District 10) will accept this award on behalf of all the nurses of the Dayton area.

Last year you paid \$100 each to attend the DDD 2020; this year we are only charging \$50 –such a bargain, it's all tax-deductible – and you don't even have to get dressed up to attend! \$50 may seem like a lot for a virtual event, but please remember that this is our League's major annual fundraiser for the Education Fund. To make your reservation, please make your tax-deductible check out to the LWV Education Fund (with DDD 2021 in the memo) and send it to the League office: 127 N. Ludlow, Dayton 45402, or go to our website: [www.lwvdayto.org](http://www.lwvdayto.org) and use Paypal.

If you cannot join us, please consider making a donation to our **\*\*NEW\*\*2021 Sustaining Dames Campaign** (see below).

**Something new— 2021 Sustaining Dames Campaign:**

To help sustain our League as we begin a new century of serving our community, we invite you to donate \$100 or more now to help us keep our doors open and our lights on. This donation is tax-deductible. Our 2021 Sustaining Dames Campaign begins today and will close on March 31, 2021. The names of 2021 contributors will be listed, framed, and hung in our office until the 2022 campaign. Please become a member of this prestigious team to sustain our League by making your check out now to the Dayton Area League of Women Voters Education Fund, and be the first name on our list!

# MEMBER NEWS



## In Memorium

Joyce Young, a member of the LWVGDA for 36 years, died December 26, 2020, at age 86. Joyce, who served in leadership roles for several Dayton-area organizations since the mid 1970s, was honored by our League as a Dangerous Dame of Dayton in 2019. She is being remembered for her passion, frankness, generosity and enthusiasm during her service on various Miami Valley and Ohio boards, including the Washington Township Trustees, the local United Way, the Human Race Theatre Company, and the Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

After becoming a Washington Township Trustee in 1995, Young garnered the most votes of any trustee candidate on the ballot all four times she faced re-election, up until 2017, when she declined to run again. Decades earlier, Joyce was chair of the Health and Welfare Planning Council, and joined the Board of the United Way Greater Dayton Area when the two merged. She was a member of the United Way Board from 1975-82 and was appointed to the United Way Public Policy Committee in 1983.

Young also served on civic boards involving the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery, the Human Race Theatre, and the Montgomery County Family and Children First Council. She was also a Past Chair of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission, a statewide agency that partners with individuals with disabilities to achieve quality employment and independence.

As a longtime Washington Twp. Trustee, she served on many boards and organizations, and was honored with several awards. Among them:

•**BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS:** Director emeritus, Dayton Chapter of the American Red Cross; Chair, Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission; President, Miami Valley Child Development Centers; President, Health and Welfare Planning Council; United Way of the Greater Dayton Area Board; Montgomery County Homeless Solutions Policy Board; Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board; Boonshoft Museum of Discovery Board; Dayton Art Institute Board.

•**AWARDS:** Inducted into the Presidents Club of Dayton's Citizen Legion of Honor; United Way of the Greater Dayton Area Legacy Leader; Montgomery County Citizen of the Year; YWCA Lifetime Achievement Award and Women of Influence Award.

*Excerpted from Dayton Daily News December 29, 2020*

WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS

Joanne Davis  
440-E Maryland Ave  
Dayton, OH 45404  
petlove031@hotmail.com

Megan Cooper & Scott Murphy  
106 High St  
Dayton, OH 45403  
cooperme78@hotmail.com

Sue Falter  
4112 Tonawanda Trail  
Beavercreek, OH 45430  
smfalter@gmail.com

Pam Dolence



My hat is off to the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area volunteers who registered voters for the November election. We took a breather from registering voters after the presidential election, and are still thinking of new ways to register voters during the ongoing pandemic. We will use what we learned in 2020 to continue to register voters in 2021. If you have information on places/venues where we can register voters in 2021 under the rules/guidelines of the Ohio Governor's COVID-19 plan, please contact me. Thank you.

~Jo Lovelace Hill

## Holiday Party Spreads Needed Cheer

Thanks to all who had a hand in our League's virtual Holiday Party on December 15. Not only did we have a great time, we were also able to make about \$1,200 for our Education Fund. The highlight of the evening, an original work called *The Play*, was created, scripted, and directed by our own Executive Director, Susan Hesselgesser. This past year, you have probably seen a lot of information about the National Suffragist Movement, but if you didn't attend our Holiday Party, you have not seen the story of our LOCAL Suffragist Movement. Susan's original play brings to light the women (and some men too) from the Dayton area who also struggled, campaigned, lobbied and were responsible for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. It is an AMAZING story! Susan invited members of our local League to play the parts of these women and men and, with the help of DATV, the video is a keepsake that you don't want to miss. If you have not seen it, you can view it at your leisure on the League's website.

We also thank Susan Hesselgesser, Peggy Ann Berry, Siebenthaler's Nursery, and Bernstein's Fine Catering for our door prizes. Again a heartfelt thanks from your Funding & Development Committee to all who were involved in making this happen!

**Watch "LWV Holiday Party 2020: A History of the LWV Greater Dayton Area" on DATV YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/DATVDayton>**

### Sue Hesselgesser Announces Retirement

Our Executive Director, Sue Hesselgesser, announced her retirement to the LWVGDA Board in December, 2020. Hesselgesser will leave the organization at the end of March, 2021.

She has led LWVGDA through years of tremendous membership growth and outstanding programming, including transitioning our hallmark *Voters Guide* to a self-funded product, adding *Empowering You* program broadcast by DATV, and maintaining funding for office space despite historic challenges, among so many other achievements. LWVGDA President Andy Cobb said of Sue's tenure, "In reading the actual job description, I find it amazing to expect so much from one person....and she made it look easy."

We will be announcing plans to honor Sue and all her accomplishments soon. In the meantime, we have begun our search for a new Executive Director, with the goal of onboarding the candidate by the first of March. While change can be healthy for an organization, the impact Sue has had will forever be felt by members, and the Greater Dayton community. Below is an announcement for the Executive Director position.

#### Executive Director Position for LWVGDA

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA) is accepting applications for its Executive Director position. We are searching for an individual ready to lead a membership organization with a 100 year tradition of educating and supporting voters.

The LWVGDA is a highly respected citizen's organization that researches issues from many points of view and takes action on issues affecting our families and communities. We advocate for voting rights, civic engagement, and accountable government. Our members are women and men who want to make a difference—for their communities, their country, and themselves. The League is a three-tiered organization and is a powerful and respected force of women and men in all 50 states. When the League speaks, lawmakers listen!

The League strives to be a diverse and inclusive organization. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, disability, or veteran status.

# STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

## ***League Calls for Impeachment of POTUS***

Following the events of January 6 and the breaching of our US Capitol building, the LWVUS Board called for the removal of Donald J. Trump from the office of the President of the United States. This unprecedented action by the League was, after careful consideration, deemed nonpartisan and a necessary decision for our country and our membership.

Since the situation remains fluid, our LWVGDA newsletter may not reflect what happened following our deadline. This is an excerpt from the official LWVUS statement released January 8, 2021:

***It is time to remove [Donald Trump] from office by any legal means possible, which is why LWVUS supports both impeachment and the 25th Amendment as viable options to ensure safety of Americans and preservation of our republic. . .***

***All of you, our members across the country and around the world, have joined this organization because you believe in the power to create a more perfect democracy. Today, we ask you to stand together in this decision to defend democracy as we have for 100 years.***

***In solidarity,***

***Dr. Deborah Ann Turner***

***Board President, LWVUS***

## **With Census Complete, It's Time to Start Re-Drawing District and Congressional Maps**

Thanks to the hard work of redistricting reformers all over the state, Ohio voters overwhelmingly approved two historic amendments to the Ohio Constitution that rein in gerrymandering. Issue 1 of 2015 created the Ohio Redistricting Commission to craft state legislative districts and Issue 1 of May 2018 addressed congressional gerrymandering. Both reforms focus on new rules designed to keep communities together and provide greater transparency and public engagement in the mapmaking. Voters were clear that we all deserve fair districts and fair elections. Both issues passed in every single Ohio county and with sizable margins (more than 72% of the vote).

Census population numbers drive the data needed to draw the maps, but YOU are needed to provide feedback and oversight of the process!

Watch for opportunities to learn more about how important fair maps are to fair elections for Ohio voters by following The Fair Districts = Fair Elections Coalition (includes League of Women Voters Ohio, Common Cause Ohio, ACLU, and many other civic organizations).

Go to [fairdistrictsohio.org](http://fairdistrictsohio.org) and find information, training, upcoming events, and more.



# VOLUNTEER VOICES



**What do you LOVE about the League?** This question was posed, in recognition of Valentine's Day, to more than a dozen League members who volunteer with and support the League in a variety of ways. Their main involvement with the LWV is listed after their names, but these members support the League in ways too numerous to mention here. Their responses are presented in alphabetical order by last name. Some responses have been edited slightly for space and clarity. I hope their love of the League resonates with you!

**Bonnie Buddendeck** - Voter registration, naturalization ceremonies, and *Voters Guide*: "Intelligent men and women belong to the League, and it is a pleasure working with them. Voting is the most important method for citizens to voice their opinions, so registering new voters is a gratifying activity!"

**Peggy Coale** - *Voters Guide*, voter registration: "I love being part of a group of smart and politically involved women and men who are passionate about protecting the voting rights of every citizen."

**Zella Cook** - Voter registration: "Everyone I've met in the League has a unique story that drew them to the group, but it's always about concern and commitment to fair and honest elections."

**Louisa Dreety** - Mailings, naturalization ceremonies, Book Club: "The people I have met have inspired me with their experience. I have met folks from diverse backgrounds of all ages who work hard, not for their own gain, but to contribute to the community."

**Paul Gruner** - Donor/Sponsor, program participant: "I like the mission and the programs, and LOVE the annual Dangerous Dames event!"

**Rebecca Jarvi** - Donor, past Board member, poll watcher, candidate forum timer, study participant: "I value the League and its goal of universal voter participation. I love the people I've met and worked with through the League, first and foremost our Executive Director Susan Hesselgesser, who has led the organization with positive, creative, insightful energy. My favorite job so far has been helping a team mail *The Voter*. It was time spent with friends working together."

**Val Lee** - Action Chair: "The League is an organization that performs necessary and needed tasks. It is a very worthwhile cause."

**Gary Leppla** - Donor/supporter of programs and the *Voters Guide*, former committee chair, provides legal assistance on occasion: "The LWV is the greatest nonpartisan political organization imaginable which is totally dedicated to our constitutional democratic process. It is as pure as the driven snow. It is a privilege to be a member and supporter."

**Rebecca Morgann** - Committee member, donor: "I love the people! What a wonderful group of women--and men! I can say that every committee and every effort on which I've served has been populated by vital, interesting and committed members. Each and every event and meeting is organized by eager and dedicated members who do their best - and their best is phenomenal!"

**Kyndall Ostermann** - *Voters Guide*: "I love voting. I love helping other people vote. I love the energy that this group puts into motivating and helping others to cast a ballot!"

**Stephanie Smith** - Voter registration, *Voters Guide*, state platform Issues discussion: "I so enjoy going to various community events to register voters. My favorite experiences are in high schools. Young women and men are excited about and interested in voting. And, of course, I love the number of remarkable League members I have met, many of whom I consider friends. I have learned so much from listening and sharing experiences."

**Jan Underwood** - Fair Districts = Fair Elections Campaign to End Gerrymandering in 2017, voter registration with a focus on registering young people and voters at food distribution sites: "I love helping people exercise their right to vote and educating them about the process. Anyone can go out to register voters, but working under the banner of the League lets people know that you have a century of fairness and dedication to expanding voting rights behind you."

*What do YOU love about the League? Would you like to be more involved? Let me know!*

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator  
laurelkerr1549@gmail.com

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:

# February 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Tuesday January 26 Program Planning Meeting 7 pm</b>	1	2 LWVO All Member Call	3	4	5	6
7	8 LWVGDA Board Meeting 6 pm	9 LWVO Lobby Corps Call	10	11	12	13
14 <i>Valentines Day</i>	15 <i>Presidents Day</i>	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 LWVO Lobby Corps Call	24	25	26	27
28						