



April 2021

VOLUME 98, ISSUE 4

THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2021

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We Welcome Our New Executive Director Christine Corba

As promised last month, I am delighted to introduce to you the new Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area, Christine Corba. She is an alumna of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology.

Chris comes to us from United Rehabilitation Services where she served as Development Director. Prior to working for URS, she was the Director of Community Engagement for the Epilepsy Foundation, and from 2005 to 2018 worked for We Care Arts as Grants and Events Manager, eventually leading to her position as Director of Development.

When asked how she felt about taking her position with the League she said, "I'm excited to join the League of Women Voters and to work with a group of smart, creative, people dedicated to effecting change. I can't wait to meet everyone!"

Chris and her husband Curt have lived in the Dayton area for 33 years: 21 years in Beavercreek. They are originally from Pennsylvania and she proudly admits "we are Steelers and Penn State fans (don't judge!)."



Chris and Curt have two adult children, Nick, 25, who lives in Cleveland, and Colleen, 24, who lives in Minneapolis.

As for being a mom she boasts, "I am a sports mom, through and through. Our son wrestled through college, our daughter figure skated and now each coach. I miss the hours and hours I spent sitting in bleachers, traveling every weekend, hauling crockpots, and

packing goodie bags."

"We have a dog, named Holly Golightly, a Great Pyrenees, and a cat, Oreo. Each receives an inordinate amount of attention now that we are empty nesting."

"I love to cook, I choose thrillers when looking for a book, and can knit socks! Curt and I enjoy concerts, great brunches (I cannot WAIT to be able to eat out again!), try to get to the Schuster as often as we can, and will begin to travel a bit more once the pandemic ends! I love old movies and can watch any Hitchcock film over and over."

Chris, I wish you all the best as you take the reins of this incredible organization and look forward to your leadership in the years ahead.

***~Susan Hesselgesser,
outgoing Executive Director, LWVGD***

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

MAJOR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

CABINET LEVEL (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Estate of Sarah Deets

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

Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher & Dona C. Fletcher
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SENATE (\$500 - \$999)

Lee & Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
Vincent & Andrea Cobb
Jane & Dick Hattershire
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Sandra McHugh & Jerry Sutton
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Jenell Ross
Sinclair College
Stephanie A. Smith
The Rubi Girls
Judy & Tom Thompson
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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

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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
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Carol Graff, in memory of
Bryon L. Schatzley
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Judy & Tom Thompson
The Virginia W. Kettering
Foundation
Penny Wolff
Women's History Project
Greene County

*In-kind contribution **In-kind contribution + monetary contribution ***deceased

Recent Contributions Appreciated

General Fund—a 501(c)(4)entity: Philip & Louisa Dreety - in Memory of Joyce Young, Christine Hodgson, Ina & Ray Green, Dianne Herman, Stephanie Smith

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity: Barbara Buddendeck, Kathryn Jarvi, William & Kathleen Moroney, Network for Good

All contributions as of January 31, 2021



"I really think that's the key, part of the spiritual renewal that America needs to have, the notion that we really can have confidence in a better tomorrow." -- Carol Moseley Braun

Meet Nannie Helen Burroughs

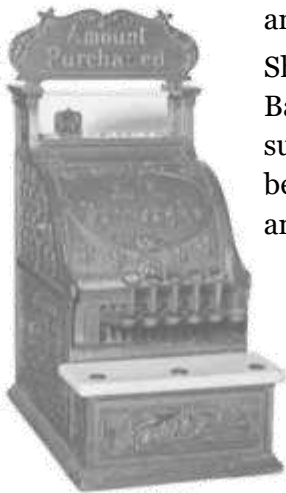
As we reflect on African American History Month and Women's History Month, allow me to introduce you to someone who positions herself in both camps. Nannie Helen Burroughs (1879-1961) was an exemplary student who graduated, with honors, from M Street High School (now known as Paul Laurence Dunbar High School) in Washington DC. Her strong academic accomplishments did not translate into meaningful employment. Undeterred, she made the decision to start her own school to educate and train African American women. Relying on small donations from Black women and children from the community, Burroughs managed to raise enough money to open the National Training School for Women and Girls.



She was active in the Woman's Convention of the National Baptist Convention. With many members who were fellow suffragists, the meetings provided a setting for discussions on suffrage topics. She believed suffrage for African American women was crucial to protect their interests in an often-discriminatory society.

Nannie Helen Burroughs served as President of the National Training School for Women and Girls from 1909 until her death in 1961. In 1964 the school was renamed in her honor. The Trades Hall is a National Historic Landmark.

Of note to Daytonians, an NCR cash register made in 1904 and marked with her name, was used for teaching students at the school.



~Valerie Lee, Action Chair



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IN MEMORIAM

The League recognizes the passing of **Ronald Katsuyama**. Both he and his wife Jane are long-time members and supporters of LWVGDA. Ron was a Professor-Emeritus of University of Dayton, College of Arts and Sciences-Psychology. He was a tireless champion of civil rights, and among his many involvements, served as Chair of the Federation Against Intolerance and Racism (FAIR), a Hate Crimes Task Force. He will be greatly missed.

Continued Tributes to Sue Hesselgesser

Our first Executive Director Susan Hesselgesser stepped down in March after twelve years of amazing leadership. Tributes from members and friends of LWVGDA poured in and we could not print them all in our last issue. Here are a few more:

When I think of Sue as a leader, I think of laughter. Odd thought? Not to me. Sue has accomplished all the markers that a successful Executive Director sets for oneself in an organization such as the League - membership growth, meeting budgetary goals, community ties, strong volunteer core, and a solid belief that League work matters to our democracy. Our local League is better for having had her at the helm. I would argue, however, that all this is accomplished through her ability to laugh. Laughter is a shared moment of camaraderie. A moment to step out of a tough discussion or problem. Many times as Finance Chair our one-on-one discussions or Finance Committee meetings have “digressed” into laughter. Allowing me/us the time to take a breath and continue the task at hand. I, for one, will miss Sue and those moments of laughter. She made my job easier. Sue, continue to laugh!

~ Janine Kinnison

When Sue first approached me with the idea of retiring, all I could think was: please not until after I complete my term! I cannot separate the League and Sue in my mind - she has been such an influence, and I am so going to miss walking into the office and having discussions at her desk. I've learned so much from Sue, but most importantly, I will never look at bicycles the same again. I will miss her terribly, but I wish Sue all the best in retirement.

~ Andrea Cobb

Directory of Public Officials Now Available



Contacting your elected officials by phone, email, letter or social media is important in informing local, city, state, and national elected officials about how YOU feel about upcoming legislation or issues affecting your community.

Your LWVGDA publishes a *Directory of Public Officials* annually. The *Directory* lists contact information for all elected officials representing residents of Montgomery and Greene Counties, including city, county, state, and federal offices.

The 2021 edition is now available. We ask for a donation of \$3 for members for first copy, \$5 for additional copies; nonmember cost is \$6 each up to 10 copies, or \$5 each for orders of 10 or more.

Call our League offices at 937.228.4041 or email league@lwvdayton.org to arrange to receive your copy today!

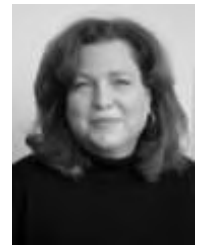
2021 Dangerous Dames of Dayton Honored Virtually

LWV Greater Dayton Area honored a community organizer, an entire group of health care heroes, and a champion for developmentally disabled citizens (posthumously), at its 11th annual Dangerous Dames of Dayton fundraising event March 23rd.

The keynote speaker was Jana Collier, Publisher of Cox First Media and the Dayton Daily News, which recently accepted state-level accolades for groundbreaking political reporting during one historic year in journalism.

Participants joined the festivities virtually, yet gathered in one spirit toward honoring women and men in our community who leaped over barriers and fought against the odds to make our community a better place to live, just as our suffragist sisters did over 100 years ago.

If you missed our event, or even if you were 'on-line' that night, here is a synopsis of our Dangerous Dames. A recording of the presentation will be made available on our website, LWVDayton.org.



Jana Collier



Daj'za Demmings

Daj'za Demmings, a native of West Dayton, was named Dayton Business Journal's 2020 "Class of 40 Under 40" and she was Dayton Human Relations Council's Social Justice of the Year Award Recipient. She takes tremendous pride in her hometown and makes a point to support local initiatives and businesses, especially within minority communities. Studied at Central State University & Wilberforce University, and credits these institutions with cultivating the skills that contribute to her professional development in leadership, education, activism, empowerment, and service. Through her role as Executive Director of Dayton Young Black Professionals, she works to create a network that is a safe haven for young, African American career men and women to unite, network, cultivate their resources and thrive together. She is committed to a life of service and philanthropy for minority groups and marginalized people everywhere.



Sharon Hawkins



All our local Health Care Nurses continue every day to work fearlessly and tirelessly during this long and challenging pandemic to heal those impacted by COVID-19. They truly are heroes who every day put their lives on the line to help others. Sharon Hawkins, President of District Ten of the Ohio Nurses Association, accepts this award on behalf of all the nurses of the Dayton Area.



Brenda Whitney

For over three decades, Brenda Whitney 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 reintegration of people with developmental disabilities into their communities. Brenda championed our forgotten people. Judy Leasure, colleague and life-long friend of Brenda, accepted the award in Brenda's memory.

EXTRA, EXTRA!! The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area also surprised and honored **Jana Collier** with the Dangerous Dames of Dayton designation for her extraordinary leadership in the community as Publisher of Cox First Media and the Dayton Daily News, and in recognition of the newspaper supporting award-winning political reporting during an historic year in journalism.

Program Planning Committee Ranks Issues for 2021-22 Focus

The LWVGDA Program Planning Committee met virtually in January to recommend and discuss issues/topics for consideration during the 2021-22 program year. Then participants recently ranked the issues using an on-line survey format (see ranked program topics below).

At the March Executive Board meeting, Vice President of Programming David Bodary thanked participants of the planning committee, and remarked that despite the inability to meet in person and debate the value of each issue in person, virtual meetings still resulted in robust and meaningful discussion thanks to the dedication of League members.

The ranked program topics and resulting report have been forwarded to LWV Ohio for consolidation with other regional Leagues toward development of a statewide programming focus.

Greater Dayton League members should be proud that information and resources provided by our planning committee to LWV Ohio on the subject of police reform are being used to lead the formation of a statewide policy highlighting police diversity training, crisis training, applicant screening and funding reallocation to mental health and anti-racism resources. Way to lead the way!!

Government

1. Voter education/registration
2. Voter access/suppression concerns
3. Info literacy –misinformation (fact vs. opinion)
4. Civic education and civil discourse
5. Democratic engagement
6. Candidate forums
7. Budget education

Government Reforms

1. Redistricting (equity)
2. Gerrymandering
3. Fair elections/election reform
4. Racial justice– anti-racism
5. Electoral College reform
6. Criminal justice/police reforms

7. Rank choice voting – primaries

8. Supreme Court term limits

Social Policy

1. Public health/equity
2. Food insecurity
3. Social determinants of public health
4. Address equity issues broadly
5. COVID recovery
6. Mental health/pandemic
7. Vaccine distribution criteria

Social Policy Reforms

1. Health care for all – equity
2. Racial equity
3. Gun control/gun violence
4. Criminal justice

Natural Resources

1. Climate change
2. Water safety/security/threats and quality (PFAS) (DATV-Feb 2021)
3. Environmental justice issues
4. Environmental issues: climate change & global warming
5. Senate Bill 6 repeal
6. Recycling/waste responsibility

VOLUNTEER VOICES



Mary Robertson, Media Volunteer Extraordinaire!

It would be nearly impossible to overstate the value of the media services Mary Robertson has provided the League over the past number of months. With the need to meet online due to the pandemic, Mary has been on the job, setting up meetings through the technological capabilities of Zoom, providing links and registration options, incorporating various media within a Zoom meeting, screen sharing, assigning and shepherding participants to virtual breakout rooms, and the list goes on. Does your head spin just reading about it? Mary has seemed undaunted by the challenges, and extremely generous in her gift of time to make it happen.

Additionally, Mary has kept the League's presence on social media fresh and engaging, using her time, imagination, and know-how. Mary is one of the media



volunteers who has helped us stay up to date before, during, and after the election, providing an important public service at a time when democracy was being tested from multiple fronts. As a trusted source of nonpartisan political information, the League's ability to communicate quickly and factually has never mattered more.

We also have Mary to thank for the terrific look of *The Voter*! Mary is the graphic designer who brings it all together, making the newsletter look professional and engaging.

We recognize Mary Robertson for her generous, knowledgeable, and team-spirited work to keep the League connected and relevant. THANK YOU!

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator

NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) COMMITTEE ALREADY MAKING AN IMPACT

Members of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, with Dona Fletcher serving as Chair, met with the CEO of the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission and his Equity Manager to discuss ways we could access some of the data mapping they have done based on the 2020 election. Jo Lovelace Hill will work with their Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Project Manager to create maps that identify where voter participation gaps exist in the greater Dayton area. Diversity within the League was also discussed. Committee members feel that one of the barriers to more diverse League membership is a lack of financial resources among some potential members. The Ohio League is working on a flexible membership possibility, but it has not been adopted as yet. Dona Fletcher was told by the LWVO liaisons for DEI that they are working on a train-the-trainer workshop and a handbook. Our committee would like to do a workshop with the entire Board in July, details to be arranged.



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:

April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Passover Ends
4 Easter	5 Deadline for voter registration/ May 4 special election	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 BOARD MEETING	13 Ramadan Begins	14 Ohio House in session	15	16	17
18	19	20 Ohio Senate in session	21 Ohio House in session	22	23	24
25	26	27 Ohio Senate in session	28 Ohio House session	29	30	