



May 2021

VOLUME 98, ISSUE 5

THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2021

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Getting to know you...

Wow! What a whirlwind the past three weeks have been! As I reflect on the people I've met, the massive amount of information I've been trying to absorb (I'm not going to lie, my brain has been very tired every day!) and learning about the day-to-day activities here in the office, I know that I've landed in the right place.

On my first day, Sue told me that this was the best job she ever had and that every day I would be surrounded by smart, capable, and passionate people who want to help. And she was right! Each of the Board members, Sue, Bobbie, and Sylvia have been so gracious with me as I learn the ropes.

Next week, I get to attend Naturalization Ceremonies for new citizens and help them get registered to vote. After

so many months of preparation, and ceremonies being postponed because of the pandemic, hundreds of people will finally realize their dream of becoming an American citizen with all the rights and privileges afforded to them, including their right to vote. I can't wait to see the League's mission in action!

I'm looking forward to getting the chance to meet you all in person as restrictions are lifted! Fingers crossed; we may be able to have some in-person events in the coming months! In the meantime, stay healthy, and I hope to see many of you via Zoom at our annual meeting!

Take care,

*~Chris Corba,
Executive Director, LWVGDA*

Thanks for the Memories

Dear Friends,

For someone who is seldom without words, I cannot tell you how much the Tributes in the March *Voter* meant to me, especially at this time.

As many of you know, my retirement isn't exactly the way I had planned. The last six weeks have been among the most difficult of my life. When an unexpected and serious illness is diagnosed in your family your world shifts, most people find themselves isolated and alone with their thoughts and fears. That didn't happen in my case, because none of you allowed it to happen. You have surrounded John and me with kindness, compassion, and FOOD!

My first instinct was to reject all the warm, loving outreach, but you were relentless, and we are so grateful. Because of you, we never got into a dark lonely place. Fortunately, we have a good prognosis and things are moving in the right direction. I will never forget the way many of you made me laugh, until you made me cry.

When I saw the tributes in the March newsletter, they took my breath away. I believe I may have melted into a hapless puddle for a few hours, then I read them again and re-lived them. Because I remembered so many of the stories you shared, you made me smile. Such fleeting conversations, seemingly little things reminded me what fun we have had.

Thank you, Deb Lukjanovs, for being the mastermind of these tributes and for all of you who took the time to share your memories; nothing could have been more special.

~Sue Hesselgesser

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
Theresa Gasper

SENATE (\$500 - \$999)

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Barbara Buddendeck
Vincent & Andrea Cobb
Jane & Dick Hattershire
Dayton Metro Library
Debbie Feldman

Lisa Hanauer and Sue Spiegel
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Sandra McHugh & Jerry Sutton
Michael & Margot Merz
Sandra Nearingard
David & Sharen Neuhardt
Jenell Ross
Sinclair College
Stephanie A. Smith
The Rubi Girls
Judy & Tom Thompson
Juanita Wehrle-Einhorn
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HOUSE (\$250 - \$499)

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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
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
Jane & Dick Hattershire
Susan Hesselgesser
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Kendall Printing*
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LWVO Voter Registration Grant

Michelle M. Maciorowski Law
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Making A Difference
Earl McDaniel
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Morgan Family Foundation
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Marian Simmons Estate Bequest
MVCC*
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Preferred Planning Associates

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Sinclair College
Jeanette Schultz
Dr. William Spon &
Dr. Margaret Dunn
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: Dawn Bellinger

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity: Dawn Bellinger, Barbara Buddendeck, Andrea Cobb, Louisa Dreety, Susan Hesselgesser, Jane Katsuyama, Peg Schulz, Kim Senft-Paras, Stephanie Smith, Penny Wolff

All contributions as of February 28, 2021



**Don't forget to VOTE
on May 4!**

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MAY 18



**The League of Women Voters
Greater Dayton Area
will hold its Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, starting at 7:00 p.m.**

The event will be held via Zoom, and is for members only. Please watch your email for the Zoom link. Voting packets were mailed to members in mid-April. Annual Committee reports can be downloaded from our website LWVDayton.org

Our Agenda:

- Guest Speakers Michelle Maciorowski and Jon Scandling will present information on pending legislation related to First Amendment issues (Ohio SB 33 and other pending anti-protest legislation).
- Members will vote on:
 - Proposal to merge the General Fund and the Education Fund (see related article on page 5);
 - Bylaws revised for single entity 501(c)(3) status;
 - Nominations Slate for open Board positions;
 - 2021-22 Budget (General Fund and present Education Fund);
 - 2021-22 Programs.

Also scheduled is a presentation from our new Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) committee.

Contact Chris Corba, LWVGDA Executive Director, at 937.228.4041, with questions or for more information.

LWV Urges Senate To Pass “For the People Act” (S1)



Dear Senator:

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) urges you to strongly support the For the People Act (S1), the transformational democracy reform package that would return power to everyday Americans. This pro-democracy legislation passed in the House of Representatives on March 3, sending a strong message that American voting rights must be protected. We urge you to join your colleagues in the House and support this widely popular bill to strengthen our democracy.

Take Action: Tell Ohio Senators to Support S1!

On the evening of March 23, our League celebrated the 2021 Dangerous Dames of Dayton (DDD) with Keynote Speaker Jana Collier, Publisher of Cox First Media/Dayton Daily News (a Dangerous Dame in her own right), plus we honored the following Dangerous Dames: Daj'za Demmings, Our Local Healthcare Nurses, and Brenda Whitney (posthumously). The full story of the DDD was in last month's Voter, and the recording of the program is located on our website LWVDayton.org. We thank everyone who attended this Zoom event, and we especially thank the following 2021 Sustaining Dames of Dayton who additionally contributed \$100 or more in support of this campaign that ended March 31, 2021. The following list of contributors will be framed and displayed in the League office until the 2022 Sustaining Dames Campaign (which will begin on January 1, 2022 and end on March 31, 2022). We invite you to think about becoming a member of the 2022 Sustaining Dames next year!

We Thank The 2021 Sustaining Dames of Dayton

Nancy Adkins
Dawn Bellinger
Peggy Ann Berry
Susan & David Bodary
Pat Bradley-Falke
Linda Fish
Barbara Buddendeck
Bonnie Buddendeck
Andrea Cobb
Jana Collier
Susan Deluca
Louisa Scarpelli & Philip Dreety
Jeanne Eickman

Laurie Siebenthaler Fanning
Carol Graff
Paul Gruner
Dianne Herman
Susan Hesselgesser
Jo Lovelace Hill
Vivienne Himmell
Ron & Jane Katsuyama
Gary Leppla
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Sandy McHugh
Lucy Anne McKosky
Lillian Moskeland
Mary Robertson
Beth Schaeffer
Peg Schulz
Kim Senft-Paras
DJ Shade
Stephanie Smith
Jerry Sutton
Jean Tarr
Penny Wolff

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!

League to vote on merging funds

At our annual meeting this year, our membership is going to be asked to vote on a resolution to merge our 501(c)(3) and our 501(c)(4) entities into one 501(c)(3) organization. The Board initially voted to pursue this option after learning of the process from a session at LWVO state convention in 2019. Several Board members and Education Fund Trustees began discussions, seeking information and assistance from Tom Carson, who is a legal representative for LWVUS, and Dave Neuhardt, who provides legal assistance for our League.

In your voting packet for Annual Meeting, you will be asked to approve a Resolution to Merge. The Education Fund Trustees will also vote to approve this merger. Members will also be asked to approve new League By-laws for our newly formed 501(c)(3), which have been presented by our Bylaws Committee.

Historically Leagues have qualified as “tax exempt” under 501(c)(4) as a “social welfare” organization. Over the years, most Leagues have added an Education Fund entity which qualified as tax exempt under 501(c)(3). There are only a few significant differences between a 501(c)(3) and a 501(c)(4).

A 501(c)(4) organization is able to support or oppose political candidates for elected office, while a 501(c)(3) organization is not allowed to do so. This difference is irrelevant for League organizations, as LWV rules prohibit us from this kind of political activity.

There is no limit on lobbying activities for a 501(c)(4) organization, whereas a 501(c)(3) organization’s activities cannot constitute a “substantial part” of its overall activities. This limitation should not impact in any way the operations of a typical League. Further, if the 501(c)(3) makes a 501(h) election, the threshold for exceeding “substantial” is for lobbying expenditures to exceed 20% of an organization’s total expenditures. There is no limit on pure advocacy (does not involve specific legislation or ballot measures).



Contributions and member dues are tax deductible for donors and members of a 501(c)(3) organization unless the funds are specifically designated to fund a lobbying expenditure or the donor receives something of value in exchange for the dues or contribution. Contributions and dues are not deductible for donors and/or members of 501(c)(4) organizations.

How can our organization benefit as a single 501(c)(3) organization? Clearly, the most certain long-term benefit

donors and members who itemize deductions for tax purposes will have a tax benefit

is that donors and members who itemize deductions for tax purposes will have a tax benefit from their donations and member dues. We would also benefit materially from a reduction in administrative work and bookkeeping expenses. Several local Leagues in Ohio, including LWV Metro Columbus and LWV Kent,

have merged their 501(c)(4) and 501(c)(3) in the past few years and have seen great benefits from the simplicity of running a single entity organization.

If you have any questions or concerns about the merger, please feel free to contact me!

Andy Cobb

LWV Dayton President

acobb527@icloud.com

937-344.6711

Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee Introduces Fair Districts Ohio

The LWVGDA Redistricting/Fair Elections Committee has been actively involved in training, planning, and recruiting for the work we must do to educate and engage our community concerning the Fair Districts Ohio redistricting initiative.

Fair Districts Ohio is an organization committed to fairer state legislative and congressional maps. This is nonpartisan team of voting rights experts and organizations working to create a better and more equitable representational democracy. The coalition includes Common Cause Ohio, the League of Women Voters of Ohio, Ohio A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Voter Rights Coalition, and more.

Every ten years, Ohio must adopt new district maps for the purpose of electing members in US Congress, the Ohio State Senate and Ohio House of Representatives. These representatives are elected from districts of roughly equal population, giving each person's vote the same influence. The population used is based on the most recent (2020) U.S. Census. We refer to this process as Redistricting.

This year's effort will apply a redistricting reform passed overwhelmingly by Ohio voters in 2015 and 2018, so these are new processes, which must be completed in time for the 2022 election cycle.



Where YOU Draw the Maps!

Districtr is a free, public web tool for districting and community identification, brought to you by the MGGG Redistricting Lab.

You can use the tool to draw your own version of Ohio's district maps!

Get started at FairDistrictsOhio.org/community-mapping.

Learn more about why communities should be involved in drawing what they think would be a fair map for Congressional and State districts. Then start conversations with family and friends on how Ohio can and should draw fair districts that let voters choose their representatives, instead of politicians picking out their voters.

New district lines can be drawn to intentionally decrease voters' powers based solely on their political party. We believe redistricting should be fair and clear. This new process affords Ohio voters transparency and involvement in the redistricting process. The Fair Districts initiative is intended to muster grass-root voter participation through public presentations on the process, map-making exercises, engagement campaigns, and legislative participation.

For more information, check the Fair Districts OH website at FairDistrictsOhio.org. We need our local League members to become involved through the Fair Districts OH speakers' bureau, the community map-making opportunities, and/or the transparency team. If you are interested, please email Kim Senft-Paras at kimsenftparas5@gmail.com or contact the LWVGDA office.

VOLUNTEER VOICES

Thank you to our dedicated Development Divas!

Did you attend Dangerous Dames of Dayton 2021? This was my first year to attend this inspiring and enlightening annual event. As I reflected on this very special occasion, I wondered about the people who orchestrated it. Who put this fabulous evening together? I thought you might like to know, as well.

The Funding and Development Committee is led by Linda Fish and includes Nancy Adkins, Barbara Buddendeck, Laurie Siebenthaler Fanning, Mary Robertson, and Peg Schulz. Most of these members have been on the committee since 2009, and one has served since 2000! They are quick to point out they could not do this work alone, and are grateful for the dependable, capable support of Mario, Bobbie Beach, Peggy Ann Berry, Andy Cobb, Susan Hesselgesser, and many others.

So, it turns out the Dangerous Dames event was made possible by the “Dedicated Development Divas” (my

moniker for them), dangerous in their own right for their ability to raise funds necessary to carry out the work of the League, moving us forward at a time when voting rights are seriously threatened. They are the brains, heart, and

energy that bring to life fundraising and awareness-raising events such as Dangerous Dames and Dine & Dish.

Here is what else I learned: They desperately need new committee members for this exciting team! If you are interested, please contact any of the members mentioned above or Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator, at laurelkerr1549@gmail.com.

ADDITIONALLY, our gratitude goes to Deb Lukjanovs, *Voter* Newsletter Co-Editor for the past year. We wish her well as she retires from this position. Her editing skills and collaborative abilities will be missed!

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator



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170 Years Ago on May 29, 1851: Sojourner Truth delivers her “Ain’t I a Woman” speech



Born a slave, and after she gained her freedom in 1827, Sojourner Truth became a well known anti-slavery speaker. Women’s rights became Truth’s life’s work. During the historic Ohio Women’s Rights Convention in 1851, Truth delivered her most famous “Ain’t I a Woman” speech. At the time, her speech wasn’t transcribed, therefore a completely accurate rendition of what Sojourner Truth actually said has been lost. What is accurate, however, is the historic impact her speech and actions towards equal rights had on the U.S.

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:

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Absentee ballots due to BOE
2	3	4 ELECTION DAY 6:30 am to 7:30 pm	5	6	7	8
9 Happy Mothers Day 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 LWVGDA ANNUAL MEETING	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Memorial Day 					