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THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2021

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Wish List

I know what is number one on my wish list this year: Peace on earth, good will toward women and men.

Reviving civility in politics is the first item on the League of Women Voters of the United States' legislative watch list. Civility, according to Merriam-Webster, is "civilized conduct, especially courtesy, politeness, a polite act or expression." It comes from the Latin root *civilis*, which means "relating to public life, befitting a citizen."

We're not seeing much of that right now. Using degrading language and name-calling have become the norm. We can no longer have a spirited discussion about ideas without the conversation breaking down into a yelling match. I have friends who, by all accounts share my views on social issues, that regularly call others stupid or ignorant because someone disagreed with their point of view. Families are divided and decades-long friendships have ended because of political differences.

This past election cycle has, unfortunately, reminded us yet again that not everyone acts civilly. Local candidates filed police reports because of actions perpetrated by their opponents' supporters. Political campaigns hit below the belt. Our state and national leaders are berating one another, fail to acknowledge inequities in our system or honor the opinions and needs of their constituents.

Let's face it, there's a lot going on in the world that's just out and out wrong; but being civil doesn't mean that we sit back and do nothing. One of my favorite quotes from Ruth Bader Ginsburg is:

"Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

It reminds me that I need to practice active listening, think before I speak and to be aware that my actions may cause a reaction, sometimes good, sometimes not.

As we move into 2022, I'm hopeful that we'll be able to rediscover civility by exploring what we have in common and work together to find the common good.

I wish you and yours a peaceful, joyful holiday season!



~Chris Corba,
Executive Director, LWVGDA

Our Contributors Fuel Our Mission

*Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League
as of October 27, 2021 and since our November Voter*

Jeffrey and Stephanie Bange	Jane and Dick Hattershire	Jean Short
Charles D. Berry	Laurie and David Leach	Richard Smith
Harry Bradbury	Janet McIlvaine	Sinclair Community College
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Thanks to the following

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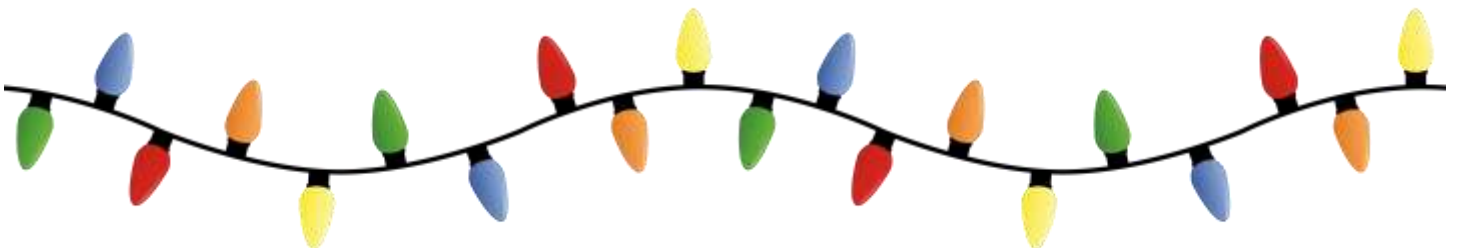
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*Please go to our website to
see the complete list of
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From the President's Desk

At the last Board meeting, we took part in furthering our DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) initiative. Look for a more in-depth description of the work we are doing in this issue of *The Voter*.

The Board also formally approved D.J. Shade as the League Historian. She has already begun digitizing old League materials. There is so much we have done in Dayton in the last 101 years and it will be wonderful to be able to pull it up on the computer with ease.



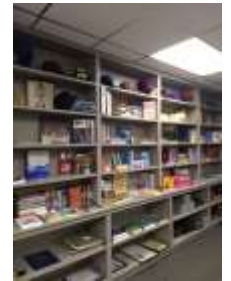
One of the highlights of historical League activities is the visit over a decade ago by a delegation from Azerbaijan. League members hosted and tour guided the four visitors on a whirlwind tour of Dayton, covering social, political and economic themes. Hostess Carol Bridgman thoughtfully gifted the League office with this memento earlier this year. It has had pride of place in our office ever since.

Did you know that the League office hosts a lending library for League members? There are two walls of bookshelves, carefully catalogued by former office manager Bobbie Beach. Who doesn't want to hunker down with a good book when the weather gets cold and gloomy? Call the office to arrange a time to come in and browse.

And last but not least, we will have a Holiday get-together for membership on December 16. Details are being finalized as of this writing and you will soon get an email with information on the evening and how to sign up with Zoom.

See you in 2022!

~Mario, LWVGDA President



Welcome to Our New Membership Director, Alaina Shoemaker!

Alaina Shoemaker has joined our Board as the Membership Director. She is excited to join in an official capacity after having been a member since 2019. She lives in Miamisburg with her husband Matt and her two children Mia (17) and Monroe (10). Professionally, she is the Director of Application Development at Great American Insurance Group in Cincinnati. In her spare time, she is a travel enthusiast, a lover of the water, specifically on the paddleboard, and an avid reader.

Many thanks to Leslie Merry, for her contributions to the Board over the years. While she will no longer serve as Director, Leslie will continue to be part of the Membership Committee.



We invite you to our League's Annual

CAPITOL CHAT

This year by Zoom

7 pm Monday, January 24, 2022

Make your reservation now (before you forget to do it since the holiday season will soon begin)

by mailing your \$20 check to the League Office

or by PayPal through our website: www.lwvdayton.org



Moderator for the evening is Jim Gaines

Statehouse Bureau Chief for the *Dayton Daily News*,
Springfield News-Sun and *Journal-News* newspapers

We have invited as our panelists for the evening:

All of our sitting Ohio Senators and Representatives

Who serve Greene and Montgomery Counties

For \$20, in support of the League, on a cold night in January while you sip hot chocolate (or something else stronger), you can join us from the comfort of your easy chair as Jim Gaines gives us background on some of the stories he has been covering at the Statehouse, asks our panelists to comment on what they think are the most important issues before our Ohio Legislature this season, and then takes questions that you may have.

You can either purchase your \$20 ticket through the PayPal button on our website, or send your check to the LWVGDA, 127 N. Ludlow St., Dayton, OH 45402. PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

Your tickets MUST be purchased no later than **Thursday, January 20**. On Friday, January 21, the link to join this event will be sent to your email address.

Grab your calendar and save the date for
The 2022 IN-PERSON



Dangerous Dames of Dayton

5:30pm – 8pm

Wednesday, March 8, 2022

At NCR Country Club

4435 Dogwood Trail, Kettering, OH 45429

Keynote Speaker, Dean Verna Williams

Verna Williams is Dean of Law at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Dean Williams joined the College of Law in 2001 after practicing many years in the areas of civil and women's rights. Prior to her appointment as Dean, she taught in the areas of family law, gender discrimination, and constitutional law, and co-directed the College's Judge Nathaniel Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice.

Before joining the College of Law, Dean Williams was Vice President and Director of Educational Opportunities at the National Women's Law Center, where she focused on issues of gender equity in education. During her time at the Center, Dean Williams was lead counsel and successfully argued before the United States Supreme Court *Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education*, which established that educational institutions have a duty to respond to and address complaints of student-to-student sexual harassment.

Dean Williams also clerked for the Hon. David S. Nelson, U.S. District Judge for Massachusetts. After the clerkship, she practiced law at the Washington, D.C. office of Sidley & Austin and at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dean Williams' research examines the intersection of race, gender, and class in law and policy. She has presented papers at such venues as the Latina and Latino Critical Race Theory Conference and meetings of the Association of Law, Culture and the Humanities. She has also served as a consultant for the Ford Foundation; in that capacity, she chaired the convening of a national conference at UC entitled *Women Coming Together: Claiming the Law for Social Change*. Dean Williams received the Goldman Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2004 and 2011. Dean Williams is a *cum laude* graduate of Harvard Law School and Georgetown University.

We will soon have more details on our website www.lwvdayton.org regarding this event and also revealing the names of our 2022 Dangerous Dames of Dayton.

Dayton League Formulates Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy

In August 2020, the Dayton League formed a committee to address Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our organization. This follows the lead of our National and State organizations.

At the last Board meeting, Dona Fletcher, Chair of the Committee, led the group in a presentation of what DEI means and how we can begin implementing it in our League work. This was the culmination of work by the Committee, the Board and Committee Chairs over the past year. Most notable was a three-day workshop facilitated by LWVUS in July.

While we have temporarily adopted the LWV US DEI policy, our goal is to develop a policy for the Dayton League that reflects our community. In January, the Board will begin brainstorming different policy verbiage. That work will be brought into the committees for discussion. The last phase will include larger conversations with the membership before settling on a DEI policy that reflects all aspects of our community and the goals of the League of Women Voters in general.

We are not waiting to implement the values of DEI, however. All monthly reports from Board members will now include a section to document how DEI is being implemented in their activities for the League.

These are the definitions we are working with that come from LWVUS.

Diversity includes all of the similarities and differences among people and also refers to population groups that have been historically underrepresented in socially, politically, or economically powerful institutions and organizations. A person is not diverse—they are a unique, individual unit. They may bring diversity to your team, but they, in themselves, are not diverse.

Equity takes into account that people have different access to resources because of a system of oppression and privilege. Equity prioritizes efforts to ensure the most underserved and marginalized among us have as much of an opportunity to succeed as the most well-served and advantaged.

Inclusion is an ongoing process, not a static state of being. It refers to the degree to which diverse individuals are able to participate fully in the decision-making processes within an organization or group.

We will be updating the membership on a regular basis on this work and look forward to group conversations as we formulate our unique Dayton League policy.



VOLUNTEER VOICES



“If you want peace, work for justice.” Pope Paul VI

Dayton, Ohio is once again on the map for a “first” in the world of peace, thanks in part to LWV member and peace activist Catherine Queener. You’re probably aware of the International Peace Museum, the only brick-and-mortar building in the United States dedicated to peace, founded in 2004. And the Dayton Literary Peace Prize has put us on the map internationally since 2006 as the only U.S. literary prize dedicated to peace. Now, Catherine has coordinated the effort to create the **Miami Valley Peace Heroes Trail (MVPHT)**. The first-of-its-kind site, located on the grounds of Miami Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (MVUUF), 8690 Yankee Street in Dayton, is a permanent exhibit of metal signs that include a photograph and brief description of each peace hero recognized, as well as a sign explaining the trail. Catherine credits Reverend Kellie Kelly of MVUUF and Jerry Leggett, former Director of Youth Religious Education at MVUUF and Founder of the 21st Century Peace Literacy Foundation, for instigating and leading the project. Jerry has continued advising the team after moving out of the area.

Catherine describes peace heroes as “often everyday people who accept risk and succeed in making the world a less violent and more just place.” She says, “Peace heroes strive to: recognize interconnections, promote justice, reject vengeance, and foster friendship and reconciliation.”

The mission of the Peace Heroes Trail is:

- ◆ To lift up peace heroes locally, nationally and worldwide who inspire a new generation of peacebuilding — young and old alike;
- ◆ To create an onsite (Peace Hero Trail) and online peace literacy exhibit available to the greater Miami Valley community and beyond;
- ◆ To provide intergenerational mentoring between experienced and new peace builders;
- ◆ To raise funds for local and national “Peace Literacy for All” endeavors.

After Covid cancelled the originally planned event which would have brought many people together for a walk at Courthouse Square in May 2020, the idea for a permanent outdoor exhibit was born. The first 19 signs were installed in December 2020, and on October 31, 2021 the MVPHT officially opened with an additional 20 signs, a celebration, and the opportunity to meet present-day peace heroes such as Amaha Sellassie, one of the founders of Gem City Market and Co-Executive Director of CO-OP Dayton. Other Peace Heroes honored on the trail include suffragists Ida B. Wells and Lucy Stone, Greta Thunberg, Abraham Lincoln, historian and museum director Dr. James Fleming, and the Dayton Mediation Center. Catherine explains, “Peace Heroes are nominated by MVPHT captains, who then commit to raising or donating funds and involve everyone they know in learning about their hero. I think everyone who captains a team experiences joy, positivity, and power in talking about their peace hero. This is something people hunger to share with each other.”

The MVPHT is a free resource, standing ready to welcome individuals, school groups, families, and community groups. All are welcome to visit, to be inspired, and to perhaps find within ourselves a willingness to, in the words of Catherine when describing her hope for the project, “imbed peace heroes and peace literacy into our thought patterns, a practice that affects the way we talk to each other, including our children and grandchildren, and affects future behavior.” In other words, this exhibit could change the world; something for which Dayton, Ohio is known.

~ **Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator**
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*"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:



Upcoming Dates

- December 16: **Holiday Zoom Party**
- December 24 though January 3: Office Closed
- January 10: Board Meeting
- January 17 Martin Luther King Day: Office Closed
- January 24: **Capitol Chat** moderated by Statehouse Bureau Chief Jim Gaines. Register by January 20. See more information on page 4.
- March 8: **Dangerous Dames of Dayton** (In Person!)
See more information on page 5.

Watch your email for late-breaking news and updates (please make sure your email settings recognize LWVGDA and Constant Contact content, or check you 'junk email' folder, so you don't miss our messages).