



April 2023

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THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2023

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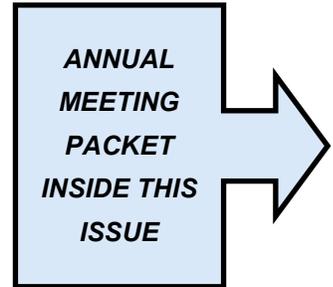
Springing Forward

Happy Spring! As much as I hate springing forward and losing that extra hour to doze, I do love seeing everything in bloom.

The upcoming months are going to be busy at the League! First, **Dangerous Dames of Dayton**, the League's signature fundraising event, will take place on Tuesday April 25 at NCR Country Club. This year, we'll be honoring inspirational women including Renate Frydman, local author and curator of *Prejudice and Memory: A Holocaust Exhibit*; Adriane Miller, executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice; and Kaukab Husain, founder and director of Muslim Youth Outreach+. Our keynote speaker, Allison Russo, the Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives, will present "People First." Representative Russo joins a long list of Ohio politicians who have spoken at League events including Governor Bob Taft, Representative Tony Hall, Congressman Mike Turner, Secretary of State Frank LaRose, Senator Niraj Antani, Representative Phil Plummer and Representative Willis Blackshear, Jr. Tickets are available now and can be purchased on our website, lwvdayton.org, or you may choose to send a check to the League office. There will be amazing baskets to bid on, and of course lots of great conversation. See more information on page 5 and don't forget to purchase tickets by April 17.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be on May 23 at Goodwill Easter Seals. The packet including our slate of officers and 2023/24 fiscal budget is included in this paper edition of *The Voter*. I hope you'll join us to celebrate your achievements over the past year and to learn more about plans for 2024. Look for more information and to RSVP in a Constant Contact email coming soon!

~Chris Corba, Executive Director



Earth Day is April 22

The theme for Earth Day 2023 is "Invest In Our Planet."
Ways to invest in our planet:

- Plant Trees
- Reduce Plastic Consumption
- Participate in Advocacy
- Vote Earth
- Choose Sustainable Fashion

Visit earthday.org to learn more. Another way to stay engaged is by participating in our **Threats to the Dayton Area's Water Supply** program, May 3, 6:30 PM at Fitz Center. See page 4 for more information.



Our Contributors Fuel Our Mission

Thank you to all who have made a contribution to the League over the last month.
A full list of contributors can be found on our website **LWVdayton.org**

League Alarmed by Effort to Make it Harder for Citizens to Amend Ohio Constitution

League members need to carefully watch an emerging Ohio legislative effort that could appear on an August 2023 special election ballot if recently-proposed SB92 becomes law. (Note: August elections were virtually banned by legislators last year but SB92 would allow them “for certain purposes.”)

Ohio Joint Resolutions HJR1 and SJR2 would change the Ohio constitution to make the process for citizen-led amendments much harder to appear on Ohio ballots. Both bills would increase the number of valid signatures that a citizen group needs to file proposed ballot language for consideration by requiring at that least 5% of signatures be from all 88 counties. (The current 110- year-old rule is 44 counties.) SJR2 would require a 60% plus one vote to be enacted (versus the current 50% plus one threshold). The new rule would apply to any proposed constitutional amendment beginning this November.

Observers agree that SB92 and the two Joint Resolutions are aimed at preventing a change to the Ohio Constitution that would guarantee abortion rights for pregnant citizens.

The League is concerned that the effect would be an unnecessary lessening of our right to petition the government that has stood for over 100 years and thus weaken the voice of citizens to participate in representative government for generations.



Welcome to our newest League members:

Stephanie Kurivial (Dayton) 281.740.8126
skurivial@gmail.com

Velma Barber (Beavercreek) 937.572.8141
Velmabarber137@gmail.com

Margaret Harris (Xenia) 937.620.6608
harrisyoo@aol.com



LWVGDA Annual meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley
660 S. Main Street, Dayton

LWV Ohio Convention

June 9-11
Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center, Columbus
Registration now open
<https://lwvohio.salsalabs.org/2023-lwvo-convention/index.html>

ALL ELECTIONS MATTER!!
REGISTER TO VOTE BY APRIL 3
TO VOTE IN THE MAY 2 PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION

From the President's Desk

March was a whirlwind of activity. April is a showcase for our Dangerous Dames event, but we are not slowing down.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEI) is collecting signatures to get Jeraldyn Blunden, founder of Dayton Contemporary Dance Company, honored on a U.S. postage stamp. Letters ready for signature will be available in the League office, collected as a group, and submitted to DCDC in June. Since we are not electronic this month (Annual Meeting materials) Google her name to see a interesting *Dayton Daily News* article about this project. And come on down!

For the first time we are participating in *A Walk for Justice and Peace*, an annual event organized by Greater Dayton Christian Connections. There are 14 stations, representing Stations of the Cross throughout downtown Dayton. Our station's theme will be Democracy in Jeopardy. Participants should be at Courthouse Square, Friday, April 7 at noon. The walk takes about an hour.

The Natural Resources Committee has corralled volunteers to prepare the garden beds for planting at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday April 22. League member Beth Adelman will lead their efforts. We're looking forward to seeing the blooms this summer! The Natural Resources Committee has also put together a program, *Threats to Dayton's Water Supply*, which will take place on May 3. Check your emails for a Constant Contact message with more information on this important presentation.

Please make sure you take a look at the materials included in this edition of *The Voter*. The 2023-2024 budget, slate of open positions for the coming year (2-year terms) and the programs discussed and decided upon for the coming year will be presented at the Annual Meeting on May 23 for a vote by the membership. Look forward to seeing you there.

Any questions? Please give me a call or call the office at 937.228.4041. As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Email them to leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net. Thank you.

~Mario, President



The Let's Go Together (LGT) committee hosted a tour and activity at Dayton International Peace Museum in February, followed by lunch at Olive Mediterranean. If you visit the museum, which we enthusiastically encourage you to do, be sure to look up! Our artwork may be included in the Peace Bridge paper sculpture that hangs from the ceiling.

Then on March 16 about twenty League members and friends gained insight into the heartbreaking and all-too-common issue of eviction by experiencing the *Evicted Exhibit* hosted by The Dayton Metro Library. Kathy Rowell, Ph.D., who brought the exhibit to Dayton, and one of her students provided a private tour. This traveling exhibit will be in Dayton through April 23, 2023. Dinner at Mudlick Tap House followed this event. At the end of our tour, Dr. Rowell answered the question, "What can we do?" by encouraging us to advocate for right to counsel for tenants and to collect personal hygiene products for unhoused women. The Let's Go Together Committee will collaborate with the Social Justice Committee on a feminine hygiene products collection drive, with the League office as the collection site. Contact Deb Gibson debbiegibson55@yahoo.com for more information.

~Laurel Kerr, Let's Go Together Committee Chair

Threats to Dayton Area's Water Supply Program May 3



The Dayton area has always cherished its clean, abundant water supply which is pumped up from the underground aquifer left from the last glacier. Now there are spilled chemicals, particularly the group of PFAS chemicals from firefighting foam and manufacturing processes, sinking into the aquifer and threatening the purity of the local drinking water. The city of Dayton supplies drinking water to both its own residents and to most of the surrounding municipalities. City officials tell us that while the plume of chemicals is moving toward the wellfields, it has not reached the water supply. The city has several lawsuits pending against the locations and the

manufacturers of these chemicals.

On May 3 the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area invites you to learn about the extent of these threats and what can be done about them. The ***Threats to the Dayton Area's Water Supply*** event is free and open to the public. Our speakers on this subject are Dr. Abinash Agrawal from the Wright State University Geology and Environmental Sciences Department, who has done extensive reach on groundwater contamination, and Professor Blake Watson of the University of Dayton School of Law, who will tell us about the legal ramifications and the pending lawsuits related to local contamination by the chemicals. The event will be held at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, 1401 N. Main Street in Dayton, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. If you would like to attend, please contact the office at league@lwvdayton.org.

Women's Reproductive Rights in Ohio

The Ohio Ballot Board approved a proposed ballot measure on March 13 to ask voters to approve an amendment to the Ohio Constitution to protect abortion rights until a fetus is viable. Organizers will be collecting at least 413,000 valid signatures until July 5 to have the ballot measure voted upon in November, and they need help. At the March 13 LWV Ohio all-member meeting, we learned that while LWV is not part of this initiative here in Ohio, we are all encouraged, as individuals, to help with this effort if we would like. For more information go to

<https://ohioansforreproductivfreedom.org/> to volunteer.





Dangerous Dames of Dayton

Join us for this slightly “scandalous” event to benefit the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

Tuesday, April 25

5:30 to 8:30 PM

NCR Country Club

4435 Dogwood Trail in Kettering

**PURCHASE
TICKETS BY
APRIL 17**

HONORING



Renate Frydman



Kaukab Husain



Adriane Miller



Featuring Keynote Speaker
Allison Russo
Minority Leader of the
Ohio House of Representatives

\$100 per ticket, COD Bar

Entrée Choices: Chicken with Red Pepper Sauce; Salmon; or Four-cheese Ravioli

Register at **LWVdayton.org**

or mail check payable to LWVGDA to: 127 N Ludlow St, Dayton OH 45402

Please include name(s) of participants and their meal choice with registration

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact the office at 937.228.4041 for more information. Thank you to our Media Sponsor *The Dayton Daily News*.



DEI Corner

As we celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8, many of us may not have been aware of the role that American suffragists played in the international struggle for women to gain the right to vote.

Carrie Chapman Catt was instrumental in the last stages of the struggle for women to win the vote in the United States and helped to secure ratification of the 19th Amendment when it was not certain that it would be passed. After the vote was won, Catt transitioned the suffrage organization into the League of Women Voters and she served as its first President. But in those years after her Presidency of the national suffrage association she was a leader in the international fight to win the vote for women.



With support from her spouse and fellow suffragists Catt organized an international meeting to promote woman suffrage, held in Berlin in 1902. Catt was elected as its first President. African American suffragist Mary Church Terrell was one of the delegates from the United States and addressed the meeting in three different languages. On a single trip from 1911 to 1912, over an 18-month period, Catt visited South Africa, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Ceylon, India, the Phillipines, China, Korea, Japan and Hawaii. By 1913, the international meeting was held in Budapest with 500 delegates, 230 world press representatives and 2800 visitors in attendance.

The International Woman Suffrage Alliance (IWSA) would eventually incorporate associations for women’s suffrage in 32 nations. After she retired from the League of Women Voters Carrie Chapman Catt continued to help women around the world gain the right to vote. The IWSA remains in existence today as the International Alliance of Women with 55 members.

DEI In Action

A recent tense public conversation over K12 education prompted the Chair of a citizen-led organization called the Oakwood Inclusion Coalition (OIC) to write a letter to the editor of the *Oakwood Register*, beseeching the community to value all voices during caution-driven conversations and learn to communicate with each other in a fearless, curiosity-driven and constructive manner.

Here’s an excerpt from the letter worth considering:

“Scientific studies and casual observations reveal that more Americans than ever, of every political affiliation, view the other party unfavorably. This animosity prevents us from seeing that Americans disagree on policy far less than we assume we do, even on hot-button topics. It also prevents us from acknowledging the broad diversity of opinions within each party: when we frame issues as mere left-versus-right debates, we dismiss individual freedom of thought. The Oakwood Inclusion Coalition is committed to tackling polarization in our community by hosting and promoting events that encourage compassionate and open-minded dialogue and cooperation.”

OIC Chair Madeline Iseli ends her letter by reminding citizens that “the differences that distinguish us don’t have to divide us. On the contrary: diversity of thought and perspectives makes our community stronger.” We could not agree more.

~submitted by Beth Schaeffer

Voters Guide Sponsors Needed

Each year, our community looks forward to the *Voters Guide*. In fact, we're already getting calls asking when it will be available! We need your support to continue this important service to our community. The *Guide* has provided voting information for the Greater Dayton Area since the League was founded in 1920. It is printed in English and Spanish and distributed in the *Dayton Daily News*, the newspapers of AIM Media, the *Oakwood Times*, *Yellow Springs News* as well as almost 200 locations, including the Montgomery and Greene County public libraries and area businesses, high schools, and churches. Spanish version *Guides* were distributed at churches, restaurants and markets.

The *Voters Guide* provides information about candidates' views, written in their own words - we do not correct spelling, grammar or punctuation – and balanced information about issues. The *Guide* will also provide updated ID requirements to vote, as well as voting hours and options. This request is being made not as a fundraiser but to help the League provide a community service.

We can't do it without your help. Each donation helps to underwrite printing and distribution costs which increase each year. Your tax-deductible gift of \$100 will put the *Guide* into the hands of 1000 voters! Plus, those who sponsor 1000 copies or more will be listed on the back of the *Guide*. You can use the donation form below or make your donation through the League's website, lwvdayton.org. Please call 937.228.4041 with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration!

✂ _____

YES! I want to support the *Voters Guide*

I have enclosed my tax-deductible gift:

_____ \$100/1000 copies _____ \$200/2000 copies _____ \$300/3000 copies _____ \$400/4000 copies

_____ \$500/5000 copies _____ \$600/6000 copies _____ \$700/7000 copies _____ \$800/8000 copies

_____ \$900/9000 copies _____ \$1000/10,000 copies \$_____ Other donation

I would like to distribute *Voters Guides* at my business

Name of business: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Please send a check payable to LWVGDA with this form to:

127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton OH 45402 or visit our website at lwvdayton.org to donate!

*"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:

Mark Your Calendar!

- April 3: ***Community Awareness Briefing on Domestic Violent Extremism***, 6:30 PM at Fitz Center
- April 4: LWVO All Member Meeting
Funding and Development Meeting
- April 6: First day of Passover
- April 7: A Walk for Justice and Peace, Noon at Courthouse Square, downtown Dayton
- April 9: Easter
- April 10: Finance Meeting
- April 11: Lobby Corps Meeting
- April 13: Board Meeting
- April 22: Earth Day Clean-up, 8:00 AM to Noon at Wegerzyn Gardens MetroPark, Dayton
- April 25: Lobby Corps Meeting
Dangerous Dames of Dayton, 5:30 PM at NCR Country Club
- May 2: **Ohio Primary/Special Election**
- May 3: ***Threats to the Dayton Area's Water Supply***, 6:30 PM at Fitz Center, Dayton
- May 23: LWVGDA Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM at Goodwill Easter Seals, Dayton

Proposed Slate for Annual Meeting 2023

For the two-year period—July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025:

- President.....Beth Schaeffer
- President Elect:.....Keelie Gustin
- Program Vice PresidentJan Runkle
- Voter Services Vice PresidentJacqueline Housel
- Funding & Development DirectorOPEN
- Greene County Representative.....Andrea Bauer
- WebmasterRita Peterson
- Nominating CommitteeRebecca Morgan
Laronda Jackson
Mattie White

For the one-year period—July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024:

- Membership DirectorLauren Karch
- Community Relations Vice PresidentMary Robertson

Respectfully submitted by the 2023 Nominating Committee: Pat Bradley-Falke, Tony Cunningham, Susan Hesselgesser, Janine Kinnison, Jo Lovelace Hill, Rebecca Morgan, Beth Schaeffer (Board Liaison)



2023 Annual Meeting Action Packet

Material in this packet will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.
It is forwarded to the membership at least 30 days in advance,
in accordance with local bylaws.

Program Planning Committee—2023-2024 Proposed Programs

Government

Voting Process and Redistricting should be top priorities.

- We need to clearly communicate how recent voter law changes will impact local voter precincts, people and practices.
- Concerns still exist regarding campaign finance/dark money influence on democracy

Social Policy

Program suggestions include:

- Housing – promotion of affordable housing
- Racial Justice
- Mental Health/Suicide prevention

Natural Resources

Water quality is top concern.

- A Program on Threats to the Dayton Area Water Supply. This planning is in progress for May, 2023
- A program in 2023 or 2024 on Biodigesters. Marilyn McCauley has a suggested speaker.
- Links on the LWVGDA website on locations of places for safe toxic waste disposal.

Tuesday May 24, 2023
Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley
660 S. Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402

PROPOSED BUDGET 2023-2024

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Acct. #	Account Name	WITHOUT BONUS	WITH BONUS	<u>EXPENSE</u>	\$	\$
		<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Proposed Budget</u>			
	<u>INCOME</u>					
4000	Membership Dues	20,530.00	20,530.00	6000	Payroll Expenses	100,378.00
4100	Contributions	16,000.00	17,000.00	6010	Contract Workers	7,000.00
4120	Bequests	500.00	500.00	6100	Office Supply Expenses	2,000.00
4300	Leadership Circle	27,000.00	28,000.00	6200	Office Expenses	30,734.00
4400	Voters Guide	22,000.00	22,000.00	6300	Administrative Expenses	1,905.00
4500	DPO	1,800.00	2,000.00	6310	Accountant Fees	2,200.00
4600	Voter Service	500.00	500.00	6320	Discretionary Funds	200.00
4650	Internal Meetings/Workshops	750.00	750.00	6400	Newsletter	75.00
4700	Grants	8,000.00	8,000.00	6410	Public Relations	500.00
4800	F & D Special Projects/Events	29,000.00	29,300.00	6500	Membership	700.00
4900	Jo Columbro Award	100.00	100.00	6510	Per Member Payments US (PMPUS)	9,936.00
4960	Rebate Programs	550.00	550.00	6520	Per Member Payments Ohio (PMPOH)	7,374.38
4970	Network for Good	300.00	300.00	6620	Funding & Development	11,200.00
	Total Income before Investment Draw	127,030.00	129,530.00	6700	Programs	750.00
4920	Investment Account	74,022.38	74,127.38	6800	Internal Meetings/Workshop	1,050.00
	Total Income After Draw	201,052.38	203,657.38	7000	Director of Public Officials	1,800.00
				7100	Voter Service	1,100.00
				7300	Voters Guide	20,000.00
				7400	Conventions	2,000.00
				7510	Board & CAB	50.00
				7520	Jo Columbro Award	100.00
					Total Expenses	201,052.38
						203,657.38

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From Finance Committee: Andy Cobb, Chair

Included in this packet is the 2023-2024 proposed budget for the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA). We are asking the membership to approve the financial budget as presented. The budget was presented to and approved by the LWVGDA Board on March 14, 2023.

Our Investment and Spending Policy was updated and approved by the Board this year. The annual spending target of the portfolio is now 3% - 5.5% of the average market value of the trailing 12 quarters (three years), calculated annually as of December 31st of that year, which results in a lower amount being withdrawn annually. The annual draw from our investments is anticipated to be 5.4%.

Should there be any concerns or comments regarding these budgets, we encourage you to contact the League office at 937-228-4041 or league@lwvdayton.org

Items of note:

Membership was reported to National to be 292 Primary members, with an additional 37 household members. Membership income is mostly offset by our Per Member Payments to State and National Leagues.

Payroll Expenses includes all Federal and State taxes, Workmen's Comp and state unemployment, as well as a 4% COLA increase for both of our employees.

Office Expenses include Rent, Insurance, Utilities, and Telephone/Copier agreements. All Office expenses are projected to increase in the coming year. We have a few new expenses added to the budget as well. Administrative Expenses includes Paypal fees charged with all transactions. We have also added the cost of Interpreters and Naturalization ceremony folders.

Market Value of investments at 12/31/22
 Change in Market Value budgeted at 4%
 Change in Market Value budgeted at 2%
 Annual fee based on .0073% of assets