



# *THE VOTER*

## Monthly News & Updates

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### Women's History Month: a Time to Talk Tenacity

As we observe Women's History Month, we reflect upon the struggles of the women who came before us, those who battled for women's right to vote, for civil rights, and for our right to control our own bodies. And now we're going to have to do it all over again. So, what do we need to do to be successful? What did we learn from those women who came before us? Of course, tenacity. Our sisters defined the problem, determined a course of action and persisted. They never gave up despite being told over and over again that "they shouldn't - they couldn't," and yet despite it all, they did. They supported each other for the good of the cause. Despite coming from varied backgrounds and seeing things from different points of view, they knew it was imperative that they find common ground. They honored the gifts and respected the opinions of others. They engaged a diverse group of people in their efforts - from marches to sit-ins. They wrote letters, they rallied and they got creative. Success starts with trust and respect. I've mentioned before that we're crafting listening sessions for members so that we can get to know each other at a deeper level and learn about the issues that are important to each of us personally with the end goal of finding ways to increase diversity in our League. We want to build relationships because it's through our relationships that we make a difference. Relationships require tenacity, finding common ground and engaging others.

Finally, happy birthday to my mom, Betty Ann,



### League Hosting Program on Violent Extremism

In collaboration with the University of Dayton Human Rights Center's PREVENTS - OH project, the League will host a "Community Awareness Briefing on Domestic Violent Extremism." The event will take place on **Monday April 3** at the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, 1401 S. Main Street, Dayton, at 6:30 PM. The purpose of the program is to inform and educate our members and the public about the growing threat of domestic violent extremism to democracy, how to identify it, ways to prevent such violence and how to promote peace and dignity. The program is free and open to the public. Please let us know if you

who will celebrate her birthday on March 8,  
International Women's Day!

~Chris Corba  
League Executive Director

plan to attend by emailing  
the **office**.



## Dangerous Dames of Dayton

### Dangerous Dames of Dayton April 25

We're excited to introduce you all to the 2023 class of Dangerous Dames! This year we are honoring: Renate Frydman, author and curator of "Prejudice and Memory: A Holocaust Exhibit," Kaukab Husain, Founder and Director of Muslim Youth Outreach+, Adriane Miller, executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice. Our keynote speaker is Representative Allison Russo, Minority Leader of the Ohio House of Representatives. The event will feature a silent auction and will take place Tuesday, April 25 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at NCR Country Club 4435 Dogwood Trail Kettering, OH 45420 Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased **HERE** or by sending a check to the League at 127 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402. Please indicate your dinner preference, Chicken with red pepper sauce, salmon or four-cheese ravioli. If you would like to sponsor the event or know of a business who might be interested, please **contact the office**.



**Renate Frydman**, author and curator of "Prejudice and Memory: A Holocaust Exhibit"



**Kaukab Husain**, Founder and Director of Muslim Youth Outreach+



**Adriane Miller**, executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice



### From the President's Desk: *March is Upon Us!*

March is upon us! Your League of Women Voters is having its own version of March Madness. We have many activities scheduled for March and April. Be sure to look at the calendar in this edition. Before I go further, allow me to introduce Lauren Karch, our new Membership Director. Her appointment was approved

at our February Board meeting. Lauren is the Communications Director for the City of Troy. A long-time League member, she is excited about the opportunity to build this committee and its activities.

Our strategic plan process begins at the end of March. Actually, to use the language of our facilitators it is a strategy+planning approach. Twelve League members will be gathering over two days to flesh out our priorities, and how to work towards them for the next three-five years.

In this issue there is information on our signature fundraiser event – Dangerous Dames of Dayton. We are back at NCR Country Club. Last year’s resumption of the in-person event was a rousing success. And while costs have gone up significantly, we are holding ticket prices at \$100.

In honor of Women’s History Month the League is hosting a screening of the PBS documentary *Trailblazing Women in Ohio Politics* followed by a panel discussion with Mayor Peggy Lehner and former Mayor Rhine McLin. It will be at the Dayton Metro Library downtown branch on **March 16 at 7 PM** (see related article). I for one am looking forward to hearing these two women share with us their perspectives. More programs are in the planning phase. Please keep your eyes open for emails with these opportunities. As always, your ideas and comments are welcome. Email them to [leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:leaguedayton@sbcglobal.net). Thank you.

~Mario  
President



## Trailblazing Women in Ohio Politics

In celebration of National Women’s History Month, LWVGDA will host a special premier screening of a new documentary titled *Trailblazing Women in Ohio Politics* on March 16 at 7:00 PM at the Dayton Metro Library-Main Branch, 215 E. Third Street, Dayton. The public is invited to watch the hour-long documentary, followed by a panel discussion which will include League member

Rhine McLin, who is featured in the documentary, and Peggy Lehner, mayor of Kettering. The panel will be moderated by Bowling Green State University Political Science Professor Melissa K. Miller, an expert on American politics.

The non-partisan documentary tells the story of both Democratic and Republican women who broke electoral barriers beginning in the 1960s. WBGU-PBS, a service of Bowling Green State University (BGSU), produced the documentary. The goal of the documentary is to tell the stories of notable women in Ohio electoral politics. Each blazed a trail for women and women of color in elective office. This includes Jo Ann Davidson, the first woman speaker of the Ohio House; Helen Rankin, the first

African American woman in the Ohio General Assembly; and Betty D. Montgomery, Ohio's first woman Attorney General, along with other distinguished politicians. "Their unique, lived experiences are fascinating history," said Professor Miller. "It's our honor to illuminate their struggles and triumphs for a multi-generational audience."

The documentary combines on-camera interviews, artifacts from each trailblazer's career and archival footage and photos – many from the Ohio History Connection archives. Each interview also will be housed at BGSU's Center for Archival Collections (CAC), giving scholars and students access to their oral histories for decades. Initial funding for the project was provided by Dr. Maribeth S. and Martin E. Rahe. Additional financial support was provided by the Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection; Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Office of the President of Bowling Green State University and BGSU's Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship. *Trailblazing Women in Ohio Politics* is funded in part by the Ohio History Fund, a grant program of the Ohio History Connection. **Your donation** to the Ohio History Fund makes this program possible. This program is made possible in part by Ohio Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. To RSVP **contact the office**.

## Election and Voting Laws Changed in Ohio

### *Education Efforts Start Right Away*

Governor DeWine started off the year by signing off on a massive overhaul of election and voting law. It's important that, as advocates, we have an understanding of exactly what has changed, specifically with the ID information now required to both register to vote and vote.

#### **IDENTIFICATION FOR ELECTION DAY VOTING**

Beginning on the first day of early voting for the May 2, 2023 Primary/Special Election, voters will be required to show photo ID to cast a regular ballot on Election Day. A voter who does not provide photo ID may cast a provisional ballot. The following documents will be acceptable photo ID for voting, as long as the ID is not expired and includes the individual's name and photograph:

- **Ohio driver's license, State ID card, or interim ID form issued by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles ("BMV").** This includes a commercial driver's license, motorcycle operator's license, probationary or restricted license, or temporary instruction permit. Note: A suspended driver's license that is not expired may still be used as photo identification for voting. An interim

#### **IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

H.B. 458 requires a person who registers or updates their voter registration to provide at least one of the following:

- **An Ohio driver's license number or state ID card number**
- **The last four digits of the voter's SSN**

The following forms of identification may no longer be used to register to vote:

- A copy of a photo ID
- A military ID (unless US issued)
- A copy of any of the formerly valid types of voter ID (utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document)

The change in law applies to new voter registrations and updates to voter registration. It does not require anyone to re-register to vote.

Just as before, to register online, a person must provide both an Ohio driver's license



identification form is a BMV document issued to a person who has just applied for a driver's license or state ID card, to use until the permanent card arrives in the mail U.S. passport or passport card.

- **U.S. military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ID card**

number or state ID card number and the last four digits of the person's Social Security number.

Watch for opportunities to learn how you can help educate our community about Ohio's new voting requirements and other changes effecting elections.

*~Dianne Herman  
VP Voter Service*

## **The DISCLOSE Act is reintroduced in US Senate and House**

On February 17, 2023 Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (R-RI) and Congressman David Cicilline (D-RI) reintroduced the Democracy Is Strengthened by Casting Light On Spending in Elections (DISCLOSE) Act in the US Senate and House. The DISCLOSE Act of 2023 aims to shine a light on outside groups that spend money to influence legislation, elections, and judicial nominations, by requiring them to disclose the names of donors who contribute more than \$10,000. The bill had been introduced last year but debate and a vote on the bill was filibustered by Senate Republicans.



The League of Women Voters has been supportive of this bill for more than a decade. LWV CEO Virginia Kase Solomon provided testimony before the Senate Rules Committee in support of this important bill last July. "We believe Americans deserve to know who is trying to influence their vote," said Kase Solomon. See her full testimony [HERE](#).

"Open Secrets, the nation's premier research group tracking money in US politics, estimates that \$1 billion dollars in dark money was spent in the 2020 elections. Shell companies, outside groups, and political nonprofits funneled millions of dollars to Super PACs which help to hide the individual source of donations. Secret campaign money, no matter the party, promotes unbridled power and has no place in American democracy. It undermines the role of the voter and corrupts the election process."

You can help keep the DISCLOSE Act moving forward by demanding Ohio Senators and Congressmen support debate and passage of the legislation this year.

*~Mary Robertson  
Public Relations Director*



As we celebrated Black History Month in February, many of us were probably not exposed to one of the most influential Black women of her time. Anna Pauline “Pauli” Murray was born in 1910 and died in 1985. She was an American civil rights activist, lawyer, gender equality advocate, author and poet, and Episcopalian Priest. She was born in Baltimore, Maryland and was essentially orphaned and raised by her maternal aunt in Durham, North Carolina. At age 16, she moved to New

York City, where she resided with cousins. After graduating from high school with honors, she attended Hunter College, graduating with a BA in English in 1933.

In 1940, while traveling with a friend, Murray sat in the whites-only section of a Virginia bus as the seats in the back of the bus were broken. They were arrested for violating the state’s segregation laws. This incident, and her subsequent involvement in the socialist Workers’ Defense League, led her to pursue a law degree from Howard University, where she was the only woman in her class.

She graduated first in her class but was denied the chance to do post-graduate work at Harvard University because of her gender. She was also denied entrance to graduate school at the University of North Carolina in 1938, but this time it was because of race. She then attended the University of California at Berkeley and went on to become the first African American to receive a Doctor of Juridical Science from Yale Law School.

As a lawyer and academic, Murray is credited as a major theoretician in American law. Her 1950 book, “States Laws on Race and Color” was called the ‘bible’ of the civil rights movement by Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall. Ruth Bader Ginsburg named Murray as the co-author in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case finding that sex discrimination is a violation of the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. She was also instrumental in advocating for the inclusion of sex in the 1964 Civil Rights Act. She is known for coining the term “Jane Crow” to describe prejudice against women.

As an activist, Murray was a member of the Congress of Racial Equality in 1942, when she was a law student. In 1966, she was a cofounder of the National Organization for Women. In the 1940’s she participated in sit-ins in segregated restaurants in Washington, D.C., years before this tactic was adopted by the civil rights movement in the 1950’s and 1960’s. She argued for inclusion of women in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, often regarded as the highwater mark of the civil rights movement.

She was a poet and an author, publishing a family memoir in 1956 titled “Proud Shoes.” She was an accomplished academic, receiving tenure at Brandeis University, and she was the first African American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest. She was well-known in the civil rights and women’s rights movement and was a life-long friend of Eleanor Roosevelt.

Pauli Murray struggled with her sexual and gender identity throughout her life. She cut her hair short and preferred wearing pants to skirts. She did not view herself as a lesbian but described herself as having an “inverted sex instinct.” She wanted a monogamous relationship with a woman, but one in which she identified herself as a male. One of her biographers, Rosalind Rosenberg has stated that Murray would probably have identified as transgender today, but lacked the language at the time.

Pauli Murray has been sainted by the Episcopal Church, has had a residential college named after her at Yale, and her childhood home has been designated as a National Historical Landmark. She, along with many other Black women who have

been overlooked in our understanding of our history, contributed greatly to movements for social justice in the United States.

~Dianne Herman



### League Social Services Update

The Montgomery County Ohio College Promise (MCOCP) program provides poverty-impacted students an opportunity to attend and graduate college at little to no cost to their families. Students are selected during middle school and are paired with a volunteer mentor, who they meet with once a week during high school. MCOCP recently selected its 13th cohort of 56 College Promise scholars, who will be freshman in the fall. MCOCP is **actively seeking mentors** to pair with each student, and all that is required is your time and energy. Prospective mentors should complete an online application, a free background check, and participate in a training session (to be held in May). The program supports the League's outlook on Higher Education to "continue to encourage a strong governance arrangement for higher education that can provide broad access to higher education for academically qualified Ohioans. Wherever it can, the League will join in requests for a widely affordable, highly accessible public higher education system in Ohio." More information and the online application can be found [HERE](#).

~Deb Mustard-Gibson



### Donations to the Survivors of Earthquake in Turkey

Dr. Anthony Whitmore of the Ahiska Turkish American Community Center extends his sincere thanks to the League members who generously donated items to support those affected by the devastating earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people and left more without shelter and other basic needs. Once again, the League's generosity is unparalleled. Thank you!



### League Returns to Volunteer at House of Bread

In addition to volunteering at The Food Bank, League members have returned to the House of Bread where they believe that "everyone



deserves to have a meal in a place where they feel welcome and appreciated.” Photo: Kaye Rich Dykes, Jean Tarr, Lucy Anne McKosky, Deb Mustard-Gibson. Want to get involved? Email **Deb Mustard-Gibson**.

## Welcome New Members!

### **Vanessa Portis-Reed**

10480 Stream Park Ct. Centerville  
937-321-7252

*Vanessa.portisreed@yahoo.com*

### **Sarah Aisenbrey**

2014 Sugar Maple Loop S. Tipp City  
937-270-9262

*Aisenbrey.2@gmail.com*

### **Victoria Fox**

1925 Hazel Ave. Kettering  
937-416-1666

### **Monica Snow**

426 East 6th St. Dayton  
937-232-7904

*Monica.snow@wright.edu*

### **Rebekah Madden**

1025 Umbreit Court Miamisburg  
931-933-1138

*Rebekahmadden1214@gmail.com*

### **Diane & Donald Blake**

4131 Tangle Tree Court Vandalia  
757-344-9208

*Blake\_927@yahoo.com*

### **Adrienne & Peter Zweber**

6911 Abington Green Court Centerville  
607-342-4964

*adriennezweber@gmail.com*

### **Cynthia Schaefer**

1361 Yankee Vineyards Dayton  
937-901-2607

*Resourceful\_woman@yahoo.com*

### **Jan Berger**

72 Thorpe Drive Dayton  
937-361-0250

*Jan\_berger@sbcglobal.net*

### **Carol & William Herrick**

207 Bradstreet Road Centerville  
937-609-4267

*Carol.herrick@B3associates.net*

### **Kathleen Glover**

### **Daj'za Demmings**

4654 Owens Dr. Dayton  
937-321-0226

*dajza@daytonybp.org*

### **Lorie Venable**

1681 Sunset Canyon Ct. Fairborn  
937-241-5580

*rusven@aol.com*

### **Megan Gantner**

5248 Mangrove Way Dayton  
937-626-7684

*megangantner0@gmail.com*

### **Moira Laughlin**

214 East Whiteman Street Yellow Springs  
937-271-9994

*rangermoi@gmail.com*

### **Susan Sandro**

7735 Wastler Rd. Clayton  
937-248-8737

*Susan.sandro@gmail.com*

### **Gene Fehskens**

1377 Holes Creek Trace Centerville  
937-848-8507

*Fehskens4@gmail.com*

### **Cynthia Davidson**

3203 Riverdowns Court Huber Heights  
937-620-5161

*Cldavidson629@aol.com*

### **Katie Christy**

10814 W. National Road New Carlisle  
513-465-3252



## UPCOMING CALENDAR

**Mary7:** LWVO All Member Meeting, 12:00 PM

**March 8:** International Women's Day #EmbraceEquality

**March 12:** Spring Forward! (Daylight Savings Time)

**March 13:** Board Meeting 6:00 PM;

**March 14:** LWVO Lobby Corps Meeting 12:00 PM

**March 16:** Let's Go Together! 4:30 PM Evicted Exhibit at DML Main

**March 16:** Trailblazing Women of Ohio 7:00 PM at DML Main

**March 17:** St. Patrick's Day

**March 18-19:** Beginning of Strategic Planning process

**March 28:** LWVO Voter Service call 7:00 PM

**April 3:** "Community Awareness Briefing on Domestic Violent Extremism"

**April 25:** Dangerous Dames of Dayton

**May 23:** Annual Meeting



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Dayton, OH 45402-1703

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