



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
Talbot Tower Suite 1208 131 N. Ludlow Street Dayton, OH 45402-1703
937-228-4041 937-372-4148 league@lwvdayton.org www.lwvdayton.org

VOLUME 87, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010



THE NEON

FREE Movie Nite at the NEON!!!

In honor of Women's History Month, our League will host a free showing of the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony, **NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE**. This movie was made for PBS by Ken Burns and Paul Barnes; an inspiring, empowering film.

The story is about the compelling friendship between Stanton and Anthony. Though often turbulent, they never wavered in their shared belief that equality was the birthright of every woman, and for more than half a century led the fight to make that dream a reality.

Invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors to join us.

Neon Theatre (corner of Fifth and Patterson)

Wednesday, March 24

7:00 p.m.

Admission is **FREE**

RSVPs appreciated; contact the League office at league@lwvdayton.org or call 937-228-4041.

Complimentary Treats

LWVO STATEHOUSE DAY/COUNCIL

2010

April 14, 2010 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Vern Riffe Center, Columbus



Plan to join League members from across the state for their annual Statehouse Day as LWVO celebrates 90 years of advocacy, education and grassroots democracy. Governor Ted Strickland will be the keynote speaker.

Statehouse Day participants may attend morning and afternoon workshops on state policy issues. Topics include: health care reform, education and school finance, judicial reform and local advocacy tools. The day will conclude with a reception and birthday party, complete with cake. Local legislators are being invited to attend as well.

Registration is required and can be coordinated through the Dayton League office. Your registration and luncheon fees can be paid by the Dayton League office if you wish. Contact Sandie at the League office (228-4041) to coordinate your plans. Car pooling is also encouraged.

General Fund

2009- 2010 Leadership Circle Members

President (\$10,000+)

Cox Ohio Publishing *

Vice President (\$5,000+)

Cox Ohio Publishing

Cabinet (\$2,500+)

Doug Snyder Graphic Design *

Governor (\$1,000+)

Roger B. Himmell, CPA *

Premier Health Partners
Miami Valley Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital
Atrium Medical Center
Upper Valley Medical Center
Time Warner Cable

Senate (\$500)

Chuck Fisher*
Kendall Printing*
McGohan Brabender
University of Dayton *
President's Office
Political Science Department

House (\$250)

Anonymous
Dr. Susan Barde
Dayton Metro Library
Five Rivers Metro Park,
Charles Shoemaker, Exec. Director
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Fletcher
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Assoc.
I Supply Company
Gary J. Leppla
David A. Neuhardt
Patricia Schroeder
Jayme Soulati
Senator Fred Strahorn
Judy & Tom Thompson
University of Dayton, Fitz Center for
Leadership in Community
Marie "Penny" Wolff

*In-kind contributions

**In kind and monetary contribution

All elected officials, political entities and candidates are invited to contribute to the LWV. Names appearing on this list do not constitute an endorsement by the LWV which is nonpartisan.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Please welcome the newest League members who have joined during the past month.

Lynn Buffington

Alena F. Chadwick

Anne Gerard

Peter Waldron

ADDRESS CHANGES

Jo Columbro

Charles Curran

Recent Contributions Appreciated

Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League's Education Fund [a 501(c)(3) entity] since our last Voter:

* indicates League member

Mildred Mooney *

Thank you \$90 for 90 years Donors!!!

Is your name on the list ????

Joan E. Albrecht
Judy Baker
Susan Blanford
Carolyn Bridgman
Susan Byerly
Barbara Czestochowa
Bea Delph
Laurie Fanning
Dona Fletcher
Susan Hesselgesser
Viv Himmell
Janis James
Sandie Mants
Vi Matyas
Ellen McCloskey
Virgil & Eileen Rehg
Jan Rudd
Pat Torvik
Jim Uphoff
Louise VanVliet
Brenda Whitney
Carol Winslow
Penny Wolff

Education Fund Current Major Contributors

Anonymous (\$1,750)
Charles Berry (\$5,000)
The Dayton Bar Association Foundation (\$1,000)
The Dayton Power & Light Foundation (\$3,000)
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation (\$5,000)

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWV affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its membership, leadership and programs.

Thank you

\$ 90 for 90 Years...

March is Women's History Month! To honor the anniversary of the League of Women Voters, the history of the suffragist movement and our **90th Birthday**, the Funding and Development Committee has led a challenge of \$90 for 90 years.

This is a **one-time only** Women's History Contribution challenge to our membership. To add your name to the growing list please contact the League office, 937-228-4041 or league@lwvdayton.org.

There is a running tally of our 90 for 90 participants posted in the League office. Participating members will be listed in the Program for the ***Dangerous Dames of Dayton and Beyond*** event in fall 2010 and listed on the League website, www.lwvdayton.org.

Donations can be made in a lump sum or a series of nine \$10 donations. Make checks payable to the **Dayton Area LWV Education Fund**. *Your donation to the Education Fund is tax deductible.* We will continue \$90 for 90 Years through 2010.

This is a **BIG anniversary year** and an opportunity to expand awareness of the voter services provided by our League in Montgomery and Greene Counties. We are also expanding into the classrooms to provide education and materials on Women's History to schools in our communities. Join Us!

PHONATHON: A WIN-WIN FOR LWVO AND LWVGDA

All League members would have recently received a fundraising appeal from the LWVO, which in years past was called Phonathon. This drive is the state League's major fund drive and we are encouraging all Dayton area members to consider a donation.

Why should I send financial support to the state League, when our local Dayton League is also facing the same financial challenges? Here are some important things to consider.

This year, our state League was widely recognized in news articles that:

- 1) identified League as a major force in keeping the issue of **redistricting reform** alive in the legislature and,
- 2) acknowledged the role that the League's lawsuit had in forcing vital **election administration reforms**. The general public doesn't differentiate among the three levels of League and so every time the Ohio League is praised in an editorial, our own credibility as a force for good government is enhanced.

There are other mutual benefits from a strong state League. They offer training opportunities and membership recruitment advice to make each of us stronger. They give us advice and information about topics like **government accountability** or **regionalism** that we can turn into relevant programs. Most importantly, they provide all of our **Voter Guide materials** on statewide issues and candidates.

However, LWVO needs us too. The LWVO lawsuit settlement reforms could not be monitored without the cooperation of local Leagues working with the local boards of elections. And without local Leagues, there could be no grassroots lobbying at Statehouse Day on April 14th. **It is through volunteer lobbyists that the State League is able to influence legislation in critical areas of voter service and other League issues.** In short, each level of League deserves whatever support we can give. Please consider this when you respond to the LWVO **Phonathon** appeal.

In addition, local Leagues will receive 15% of all **Phonathon** donations made by their own members that are received by May 1, 2010.

An interesting offer.....

The League office received the following e-mail from League member, Sue Blanford.

" I would like to offer this fund raiser for the League's 90th anniversary.

As a Realtor, Sue Blanford will donate \$90 for every \$100,000 of real estate she sells from a referral received from a League member through the year 2010. In other words, if you refer Jane Doe to Sue and Jane Doe buys a home for \$200,000, Sue will then donate \$180 to the League for the 90th anniversary.

For details you may contact Sue by email at sueblanford@yahoo.com, call her at 838-3579, or through her website at www.sueblanford.com."

90th Anniversary Luncheon and Cathy Bantz: “Making Democracy Work” Awards a resounding success!

More than 170 members and guests were welcomed into the Great Hall of the Ponitz Center at Sinclair Community College on February 23 for the 90th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters and the presentation of the Cathy Bantz Voter Service Awards. League history and spirit were abundant as everyone was greeted by tables set with yellow roses and green, white and violet ribbons representing the sentiments of the suffragist movement. Prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, yellow roses were carried and worn by those supporting women’s rights. The colors green, white and violet represented the mantra of the movement **Give Women the Vote!** League Historian, Lisa Mahle-Grisez, gave an inspiring slide show presentation highlighting suffragists and contemporary feminists.

League spirit was also represented by 16 bountiful baskets filled and donated by League members, organized by Jayme Soulati and decorated with finishing touches by Ellen McCloskey.

Mary McCarty of the *Dayton Daily News* served as emcee of the event, personalizing her emcee duties with the story of her grandmother’s activities as a suffragist. Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner graciously assisted former League President Judy Thompson with the presentation of the Cathy Bantz Awards. Award recipients included **Willis Blackshear, Montgomery County Recorder**, **Aileen LeBlanc, Radio/TV Producer/Filmmaker**, Yellow Springs; **Mary Morgan, Educator and Community Activist**, Yellow Springs; **Walker Mitchell, Community Activist**, Cedarville; and **Shannon O’Neil Pote, Community Activist**, Dayton. All recipients received the Cathy Bantz Voter Service Award, a letter of commendation from Secretary of State Brunner, a commendation from City Commissioner Nan Whaley, a congratulatory letter from Dayton Mayor Gary Leitzell and Commendation from County Commissioner Judy Dodge.

The League’s first ever **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to our own **Vivienne Himmell** for her boundless energy, enthusiasm, versatility, vitality, spirit, wisdom, compassion, guidance and perseverance, all for the love the League and its mission of nonpartisan voter service to our community. Vivienne was presented with a bouquet of yellow roses and a yellow diamond-shaped crystal stone emphasizing the diamond that she is within our midst. Congratulations Vivienne!

Secretary of State Brunner gave a keynote address about the challenges of efficient and honest voter services and the position the League of Women Voters has played in helping to assure transparent election procedures and assisting with voter services.

Many thanks to Brenda Whitney, the Funding & Development Committee, office manager Sandie Mants, and Education Coordinator, Susan Hesselgesser for their over-the-top attention to detail to make this event a success!



LWVUS NEWS

Campaign Finance in the Aftermath of the Disastrous Supreme Court Decision:

LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson testified at a House hearing on *Citizens United vs. FEC*.

"Major corporations may now intervene directly in elections – taking power away from average voters like you and me. Corruption from well-paid lobbyists linked with special interest spending in elections will vastly increase. It is a tragic mistake. But there is always hope. If ever there was a moment when our democracy needed to work for all citizens, not greedy corporations or power-hungry special interests, this is it. As a leader for 90 years in the ongoing fight to make democracy work, the League will not stop, we will not give up, and we will not give in."

A recent ABC News-Washington Post poll showed the League is not alone in this fight. Eighty percent of Americans of both parties oppose the high court's "Citizens United" decision.

LWVUS Participates in Health Care Press Conference

League President Mary G. Wilson joined a coalition of groups pushing for health care reform at a press conference in Wash. D.C. Their message: a comprehensive, system-wide, and sustainable health care reform law **can and should** be enacted soon. The League's Lobby Corps is currently on the Hill lobbying in support of action on health care, urging Congress to quickly respond to the nation's health care crisis.

LWVUS Urged Representatives to Oppose Overturning EPA Finding

The League sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation from Representatives Moran and Pomeroy which would overturn the EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health and welfare.

The Senate is expected to vote on an amendment that would weaken the **Clean Air Act** and block EPA action against climate change. If it passes, the amendment will put public health at risk and jeopardize long-overdue action to cut emissions from the biggest polluters. Now is the critical time to urge your Senators to oppose the weakening of a law with a nearly 40-year track record of protecting human health and the environment and spurring innovation. Just as EPA is finally beginning to use the Clean Air Act to cut dangerous pollution that is causing global climate change, Senator Lisa Murkowski (R AK) is trying to block that action.

The Murkowski Amendment would let America's biggest polluters off the hook and negatively affect thousands of American businesses that are waiting for Congress to set clear energy and climate policies that will unlock billions of dollars in job-creating clean energy investments.

A vote on the Murkowski Amendment could come any time. Make your voice heard with those of other activists around the country. Ask your friends, family and other League members to contact their Senators as well!

U.S. Senate Honors League with Resolution

U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) submitted a resolution co-sponsored by Dick Durbin (D-IL) to officially designate Feb. 14, 2010 as "League of Women Voters Democracy Day" in commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the League.

CEDAW, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

This treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. The treaty commits ratifying nations to take concrete action to improve the status of women and to reverse discrimination and end violence against women in their own countries and around the world. The United States has never ratified CEDAW, making it one of the few countries to fail to do so. The League believes that the U.S. should ratify CEDAW.

Looking for ways to be active in your League?

We've got a few ideas for you !!!

Funding and Development Committee is seeking committee members - join this talented group of organizers and planners. Contact Funding and Development Chair Brenda Whitney, whiteybre@aol.com

Speaker's Bureau - During this 90th year celebration we're looking for individuals willing to visit schools, youth groups and various organizations to talk about the suffragist movement. Script will be written and supplied. We are also seeking volunteers/speakers to review existing League presentations and update as necessary. Contact Sue Hesselgesser, 937-228-4041 or susan@lwvdayton.org

NEW! Education Committee - Looking for volunteers to help establish contact lists for Middle Schools and High Schools in Montgomery and Greene Counties. The purpose of the contacts will be to identify principals, history & civics teachers interested in hosting speakers, and obtaining classroom and library materials about women's history. We will also research materials available for this project. Contact Sue Hesselgesser, 937-228-4041 or susan@lwvdayton.org

You can receive up-to-date information, including Action Alerts, from your state and national Leagues by providing us with your e-mail address. We protect the privacy of our members' e-mail addresses and DO NOT sell or share these e-mail lists.

Observer Reports

Washington Township Trustees - February 8 & March 1
Lucy McKosky - observer

Trustees discussed and voted to place two levies on the May 4 ballot for police services. A citizen expressed concern about the need for stricter neighborhood maintenance codes, regulation of rental properties, parking regulations and regulations of home-based businesses.

Montgomery County Board of Elections - March 2
Sandra Mants - observer

This meeting was the annual re-organizations meeting with re-appointment of the Director, Steve Harsman and Deputy Director, Betty Smith. A new board member, Kay Wick was also seated.

Discussion focused on the upcoming May 4th Primary Election and directives related to provision of adequate paper ballots for minority party candidates. There will be candidates from the two major parties as well as four other minority candidate ballots.

CENSUS 2010



Census forms will be mailed out March 15, and should be returned by April 1, 2010. It is vitally important for Ohio that everyone participates and is counted.

The League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area is proud to be a Community Partner by encouraging all individuals to participate in this activity.



imPACT

Political Accountability for Citizens Today

An initiative of the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund with grants from The Joyce Foundation, The Kettering Fund and The League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund.

Redistricting Reform: In Ohio today, voters aren't really choosing their officials—the officials are choosing their voters. Ohio's current system of redistricting encourages partisan gerrymandering. District lines, with the help of today's computer technologies, are being drawn in a way that creates an advantage for incumbents or for a specific political party – namely, the party who gets to draw the lines.

What you can do: Encourage your legislators to consider alternative redistricting systems. Work with other concerned citizens, such as the League of Women Voters of Ohio to place an initiative on the ballot . www.ohioimpact.org.

Accountability: Democratic government depends on informed and active citizens. But nationally and in Ohio, the government is limiting access to more and more information and failing to promptly provide it when it is required to do so. The public's right to know is being replaced by information on a need-to-know basis.

What you can do: As a citizen, you have the right to attend public meetings, receive information about the policy making process, and get copies of accounts of gifts received and investments made by officials, records of lobbyists' expenditures and records of campaign contributions. You should exercise that right by requesting information and attending meetings. www.ohioimpact.org

Judicial Reform: More money is spent on judicial campaigns in Ohio than in any other state. Judicial candidates are raising large sums of money, often from those with their own political agendas. Special interests are spending even more soft money to influence voters by opposing candidates who are running against the individuals they would like to see elected.

What you can do: Learn more about your candidates by calling for debates and forums on judicial elections in your community, stay abreast of any reform proposals and contact your legislators to advocate for or against the proposals. www.ohioimpact.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
Talbot Tower, Suite 1208
131 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OHIO 45402-1703

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 105

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We are on the web
www.lwvdayton.org

Advocating Voter
Education and
Action on Issues

President's Message

The 2010 Cathy Bantz Making Democracy Work Awards Luncheon was a success on many levels. What stood out for me about the event is what I have always thought to be one of the most important features of the League. Although individuals were being honored and receiving awards, what they were recognized for was what they had done to improve the lives of others. The Cathy Bantz award is named in honor of a person whose commitment inspired others and brought about meaningful change with far reaching results. The motivation and actions of our

honorees was never selfish or done for personal gain or recognition. They did not take action so they would one day receive an award or receive public recognition. They took action because it was the right thing to do.

- Because a school levy needed to pass for the good of the children.
- Because the public needed accurate information about the local foreclosure crisis.
- Because women have a right and a responsibility to be an active part of government.

They acted selflessly for the

good of all. And, for me personally, this is what the League is about. People coming together to support a shared vision and accomplish a shared mission – for the good of the community.

Thank you to all members of the League and to all the members of our community who take action and show us how to lead. And a very special thanks the Funding and Development Committee, staff and all League members who worked so hard to make this event the success it was.

Janis