



LWVGDA Hosts Tony Hall

Did you know that Dayton has been ranked as the fourth hungriest city in the nation? Thanks to League member Yvonne Currington's initiative, LWVGDA was able to facilitate a discussion between representatives of about 20 social service agencies and former Ambassador Tony Hall on food insecurity in the Dayton area. During his time as a member of Congress, Mr. Hall was chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger and founded the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors. He also authored legislation that supported food aid and other services to the world's poorest countries. Mr. Hall is currently the Executive Director of the Alliance to End Hunger.



The February 23 meeting, held in our 10th floor conference room in Talbott Tower, was intended to draw attention to Dayton's plight and to shine a light on hunger, which tends to be a hidden problem. Food insecurity is usually a symptom of circumstances that include poverty, household instability, unemployment and lack of available grocery stores. With the loss of stores like Walmart, Target and Kroger, the west side of Dayton is now considered a food desert (a geographic area where affordable and nutritious food is difficult to obtain, particularly for those without access to an automobile). Hall noted that hunger is not part of the national or state discussion among those currently seeking public office. He feels food insecurity is an embarrassment most politicians do not like to acknowledge as a problem in their communities.

Hall and the United Way of the Greater Dayton Area have joined together to start a task force to design a plan to reduce and eventually eliminate hunger in Dayton. Our League plans to draw attention to this problem during the fall elections by including food insecurity in the questions asked of candidates in the Voters Guide and in candidate interviews and forums. It is a small step, but (we hope) the beginning of a relationship between Hall's task force and our League. For more information go to www.alliancetoendhunger.org. If you are interested in working on this League project, please contact the League office.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director



All donations as of February 29, 2016

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We thank these Major Leadership Circle members. We invite everyone to contribute to the LWV, including all elected officials, political entities and candidates. The LWV is nonpartisan; the LWV does not endorse anyone on this Leadership Circle list.

Education Fund

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Recent Contributions Appreciated

Thank you to the following who have made a contribution to the League since our last Voter.

Education Fund [a 501(c)(3) entity]
Y. Currington, R. Hauser, K. Turner

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.



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*In-kind contribution

**In-kind + monetary contribution

In Ohio, as in 21 other states and the District of Columbia, citizens who will turn 18 years old by the time of the general election are permitted to participate in their state's caucus or primary elections. Under Ohio law, 17-year-olds may **nominate** a candidate for office, but not **elect an official**.

In late 2015, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted issued an updated state election manual stating that 17-year-olds were not allowed to vote in the presidential primaries because the presidential primary **elects** delegates, who then go to the conventions of their respective parties to vote on the nominee. The difference, Secretary Husted stated, was between "electing" and "nominating" and he believed that a vote in the primaries should be categorized as an **election**, not as a **nomination**.

A state lawsuit contesting Husted's ruling was filed by the Fair Elections Network (a national voting rights organization) on behalf of nine 17-year-old registered voters from central Ohio. Presidential candidate Sanders also filed a federal lawsuit against Husted's interpretation of the law.

League of Women Voters Ohio issued a press release and a letter to Secretary Husted, urging him to rescind his decision and allow 17-year-olds to vote for presidential delegate nominees. The LWVO's letter pointed out that the Ohio Revised Code states that "at a primary election every qualified elector who is or will be on the day of the next general election eighteen or more years of age, and who is a member of or is affiliated with the political party whose primary election ballot he desires to vote, shall be entitled to vote such ballot at the primary election." R.C. 3503.011

On March 11 Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye ruled against Husted's interpretation of the law, saying that from 1981 until 2012, no secretary of state had publicly said that selection of presidential convention delegates was off-limits for 17-year-olds.

After the ruling, Secretary of State Husted said that he would not proceed with an appeal on this decision and that he would direct all county boards of elections to comply with the court order for the March primary elections.

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the death of two cherished members of the League of Women Voters: **ELEANOR KAUTZ** was an honorary 50-year member who was a staunch supporter of League activities. She was also very active in the community and lived her final years at Bethany Village. **SALLY MIER** was an active member of the local League, serving on the board and spearheading efforts to increase membership in the Greene County area. She was elected to the state board and served for one full term and a partial second term, concentrating on increasing membership at the local level throughout the state. Both of these intrepid League members will be missed and we send sincerest condolences to their families.



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The Voter is published monthly by the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area (LWVGDA); Talbott Tower, Suite 1208, 131 N. Ludlow Street, Dayton, OH 45402; Office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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WETLANDS MITIGATION BANK TOUR AND BRUNCH
Saturday, April 23, 8:30 A (Birding); 9:30 A (Tour)
SEE MEETING PLACES BELOW

Please join us for a fun morning of learning, exploring, and eating. Family and friends are welcome to join us. Call the League office to RSVP for one or both of these walks and for brunch at Val Lee's house:

For Birding, meet at 8401 Little Richmond Road in Trotwood. Bring your binoculars if you have them and wear boots that can get muddy.

For the Tour, meet at 2701 Snyder Road in Trotwood. Tour of the Bank will be led by Mike Enright, the Five Rivers MetroParks' Interim Director of Conservation. Wear boots that can get muddy. If walking on uneven, wet ground is a challenge, ask to have one of the six seats on the provided MetroParks vehicle when you RSVP to the League office.

After the tour Val Lee will graciously host a carry-in brunch at her nearby home. Her address is 7510 Arundel Rd, Dayton 45426 and her phone number is 937-837-5483. RSVP to the League office no later than the end of the day Thursday, April 21, and let us know what you would like to bring to share.

For background information on wetland mitigation banks, see last month's Voter, the League website, or Google the topic.

Kathleen Turner, Co-Natural Resources Director

SPEAKERS BUREAU GET-TOGETHER

Tuesday, May 10, 6 to 8 P

Brixx Ice Company

500 E. First Street (across from the Dayton Dragons' stadium)

As election season gears up, I anticipate that we will receive more requests for speaking engagements from community groups. As the new coordinator of the Speakers Bureau for our League, I want to invite all who have previously participated in the bureau and others who might be interested in serving to a get-together where we will provide handouts and information on some of the most commonly requested topics, such as the history of the women's suffrage movement, an overview of the League of Women Voters GDA, civic and government functions, and issues in upcoming elections. For those newly-interested in becoming presenters, we will discuss opportunities to shadow some of our more experienced presenters and will provide an orientation on how to participate in the bureau. No commitment is required to attend this event. Come and meet other League members while we share a meal together and discuss our Speakers Bureau.

Dianne Herman, Speakers Bureau Chair

DANGEROUS DAMES OF DAYTON 2016

Tuesday, August 23, 6:30 P

NCR Country Club

Put this date on your calendar NOW! The keynote speaker for this year's event honoring our League's 2016 Dangerous Dames of Dayton will be Jay Newton-Small, Washington correspondent for TIME Magazine, MSNBC political contributor and author of "Broad Influence."

Against the backdrop of a historic election year, Jay Newton-Small's book "Broad Influence" presents a compelling picture of how politics and culture are transformed as women begin to exert broad influence by reshaping the world and changing the way America works.

Dangerous Dames of Dayton is our League's annual "tip of the hat" to the Dayton suffragists who courageously fought for women's rights and, for their efforts, were dubbed by the local media as "*dangerous to polite society*." Six months prior to the passage of the 19th Amendment, these women opened the doors to the Dayton League of Women Voters, making our League one of the first in the nation.

Annual Meeting on May 16

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 16, 6 P

Goodwill Easter Seals Bldg., 660 S. Main Street, Dayton

Cost: \$20. Please send payment to the League office.

What makes a member come downtown on a weeknight at 6 PM or turn an eight hour day into 12? Recently I was musing with former League President Penny Wolff about the annual meeting, the budget and menu (is it cheaper to have chicken?), worries of low attendance, and more. I was being Eeyore. Penny looked at me with a bit of surprise. "Sue, the annual meeting is a celebration of our year, of our accomplishments!" she said. Ah, one of those lightbulb moments because, indeed it IS just that, and so much more.

**meeting
annual 2016**

The annual meeting is a celebration of League, a celebration of us, of our reputation, our accomplishments - a celebration of civility and democracy. It is also a celebration of unity, a celebration of our history, and of the incredible women who came before us who moved mountains of oppression, ignorance and fear to fight for equal rights. We celebrate the women we are because of the women they were.

Yes, sure, we vote on the budget, a budget I am proud of. We do so much on so little. We also honor those we have lost, we welcome our new members, we agree on our direction, we seat our new board. AND, we TALK: about issues and about League. We get to know each other and have a great time.

This year, President Patty Skilken suggested it would be better to change the time from Saturday morning to the evening time slot. We hope you agree and will join us as we open the next chapter of our 96 year history.

Sue Hesselgesser, Executive Director

Kroger Sign-Up Month for Community Rewards Program

All enrollees to the Kroger Community Rewards Program must re-enroll in April for the next year. It's well worth doing! Last year, 26 households participated and resulted in Kroger's donating more than \$800 to our League. Now is the time to sign up or to re-enroll! Simply go to our website and on the left side of the home page, click on Education Fund. That new page has a link for the Kroger program. You'll need your Kroger Plus Shopper's card to complete the form. Our name is League of Women Voters GDA Education Fund and our account is #80841. After that, watch your shopping receipts for a statement about your participation.

Peg Schulz, Funding & Development Committee Member

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
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Our President's Corner

Well, this certainly has been a fascinating campaign season so far! I've never seen anything like it--I don't think anyone has. The default channel on my television is cable news which generally is on if I am in the house. I used to watch the news for information, but I must confess that now it is at least partly for entertainment: which candidate has said what outrageous thing or which pundit will crack me up with a rehash of a candidate with foot-in-mouth disease?

I have been known to throw my shoe at the television during a debate, but nevertheless I watch them all. What matters through all of this is that when my candidate wins, I do not gloat to my friends who voted for the opposition. And more importantly, when my candidate loses, especially in a presidential election, I always give the new president the benefit of the doubt, hoping that having just witnessed the peaceful transition to a particular political ideology, I will also witness intelligence and thoughtfulness in a newly elected leader that I may have overlooked during the campaign. I would never set out to dismiss the entire agenda of a new administration. No president is always right and no president is always wrong. We owe any democratically elected leader in a free and fair election a chance to do great things. And if that leader is a disaster, well then we only have to wait four years for the next election!



Patty Skilken