

## Women's History Month

In 1987, March was declared Women's History Month to highlight the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. Every U.S. president since 1988 has issued a proclamation formally designating March as a time to honor women across our nation.

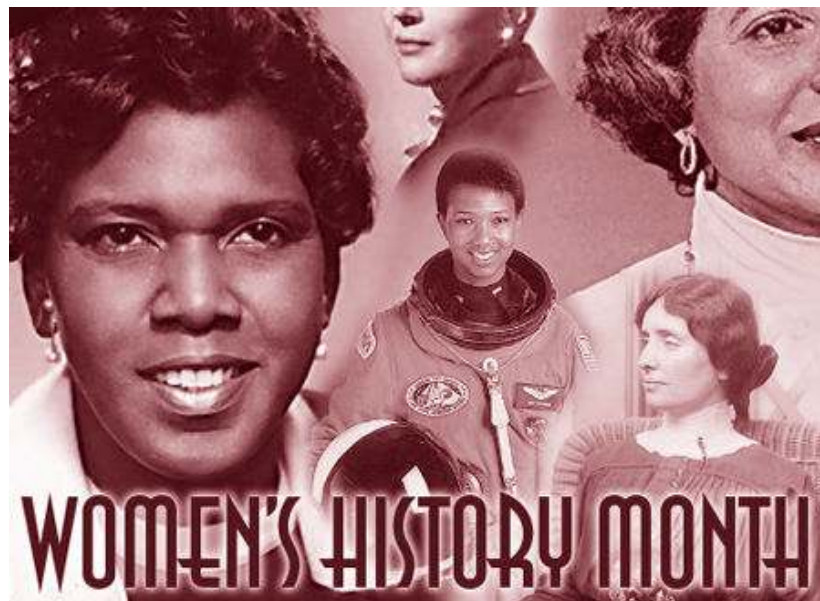
Our annual Dangerous Dames of Dayton Celebration was recently moved to March to better honor the local suffragists who fought and won the right to vote, and then went on to open the doors of our Dayton League.

By the time you read this, March 2017 will be lost to the warmer winds of April. To be a member of the League is to walk in the footsteps of the women who came before us. As we carry on their tradition and relish the freedoms of their hard work, our slogan has been to "celebrate the women we are because of the women they were."

Our League is one of the first in the nation and one of the largest in the country. As we move toward our 100th anniversary we continue to grow. Regardless of the month, we encourage every member to invite a sister, daughter, friend or neighbor to continue the suffragist journey for equal rights by joining the League of Women Voters.

For membership packets containing information about joining the League, contact the office at 937-228-4041. Men are welcome as members to share that journey.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director



All donations as of February 28, 2017

*General Fund*

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Estate of Johanna Columbro

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Judy and Tom Thompson

*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*

**Current Major Contributors**

Anonymous\*

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The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation

Bob and Mary Winfree

**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]

Abe Bassett, Dorothy Lane Market Rewards, Jennie Furnas

**Welcome New Members!**

See page 3 for new members.

\**In-kind contribution*

\*\**In-kind + monetary contribution*

*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.*

It's nice when we have so many new members we cannot fit them all on Page 2; welcome all!

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## Membership Handbook

We are starting to assemble our 2017-2018 Membership Book. If there have been changes to your contact information since last year, please let us know by May 12, 2017.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE – HOME

PHONE – CELL

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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 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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Editorial Board: Peg Schulz, Janet Hess, Viv Himmell  
Editor: Mary Winfree

Recently, I had cause to contact my state representative. I have never done that and was at a loss for the best way to make my point without being ignored or dismissed. I did a little research and came across some websites from a former congressional staffer on effective ways for private citizens to communicate with their Legislators:

The following are tips from Emily Ellsworth, a former staffer for Jason Chaffetz, from her Call the Halls guide:

- Facebook posts, tweets and other social media, while important, are easily overlooked by staffers (for more information of social media and congress see: <http://www.congressfoundation.org/projects/communicating-with-congress/social-congress-2015>).
- Emails can be logged and tracked, but at times can be overwhelming for staffers.
- Personal letters are effective. But due to post 9/11 scanning requirements in the post office, letters can get lost or delayed.
- Best way to reach your state rep or member of Congress is a phone call or face time. Staffers are required to answer the phone during business hours. A private citizen can call either the DC office or local office (I called both, my state rep's DC office did not take my name, the local office did- and I received a response letter regarding my concern).

Emily Ellsworth also recommends the following tips for phone calls:

- Identify your name and city.
- State your issue (bill # or law), express your call to action and pose your question to the staffer.
- Wait for a response.
- Tell a personal story about how the issue affects you.
- Ask that your opinion be recorded and end the call.
- Be polite and respectful.
- Several websites offer scripts for calls, if you need a reference.

For additional information, please see:

How to find your state rep: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

How to find your congressional representative <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>

<https://www.indivisibleguide.com/>

<http://echothroughthefog.cordeliadillon.com/post/153393286626/how-to-call-your-reps-when-you-have-social-anxiety>

<https://gumroad.com/l/callthehallsguide#>

Christine Prather-Glenn, Member



Follow us on Facebook!



Join us for our next League Quarterly Dinner Meeting **Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 6:00.** We will meet at the Dublin Pub near **the Oregon District.** Dublin Pub is located at 300 Wayne Ave., just outside the Oregon District downtown. There is a parking lot entrance on Wayne Ave and additional parking across 5th Street.

We will have information to share about the Programs the League will be sponsoring next year, as well as discussions about effective ways to contact your representatives. If you are a new member, please join us. You will meet other League members and start getting ideas for involvement in the League. Existing members, please bring your enthusiasm and experience and share it with new members.

If you plan to attend, **please, please RSVP** by calling (937-228-4041) or emailing (league@lwvdayton.org) the League office by April 11. It was standing room only at Thai 9 last month and while it was fabulous to have that kind of turnout, it would have been great if we all had a chair!! (We really need a head count to make sure we have enough space reserved.)

We look forward to seeing you!

Susan Byerly, President Elect

## Honor the Earth and the Work of Science on Saturday, April 22 with Fellow Leaguers (and did we mention free t-shirts and free lunch??)

From 9-11:30 AM – Bring your family and friends to Carillon Historical Park, 100 Carillon Blvd in Dayton to join the Five Rivers MetroPark's Adopt-A-Park Day. We LWV volunteers will be beautifying the park by doing some spring cleaning by removing trash. We chose this location because it is user-friendly for multiple age groups. There is a map and directions available at metroparks.org.

Wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes or boots, and dress for the weather. This event happens Rain or Shine. Bring gloves if you have them, though some will be available.

Interested? Please email Kathy Turner at songbird\_kt@yahoo.com. I'll add you to the list. MetroParks is offering free t-shirts at the site and then free lunch at Riverscape, but I need to tell them how many of you to expect and your t-shirt sizes.

From 11:30 AM-1PM is the complimentary lunch for you volunteers at Riverscape downtown. Remember that on-street parking is free on weekends in downtown Dayton.

At 2 PM come join the League of Women Voters on Courthouse Square for the national March for Science. Dayton's march will be one of dozens of satellites supporting the central march in Washington, DC. The March for Science is non-partisan. It will focus on our vital environmental issues and support for maintaining well-funded scientific research.

The League of Women Voters has strong positions in favor of clean air, clean water, clean energy, and for the efforts to achieve them. Let's support science and our scientists!

Kathy Turner and Paul Lamberger, co-directors of Natural Resources



The Ohio League of Women Voters and our coalition partners in the Fair Districts = Fair Elections Coalition are gearing up for the next phase of the effort to eliminate gerrymandering. In 2015, with coalition support, Ohio voters passed a constitutional amendment changing the way **state legislative district** lines are redrawn after each census. This process will be used after the 2020 census, but it will not apply to **Congressional districts**. Two new proposals are being advanced to address the Congressional redistricting process.

Currently, the Ohio Constitution gives the state legislature the authority to set Congressional district boundaries, with few meaningful constraints. After the 2010 census, the legislature approved a plan that resulted in the election of 12 Republican candidates and 4 Democrats, although Ohio's voters are nearly evenly divided between parties. None of the districts are competitive; in the 2016 election, all winning candidates for Congress were elected by margins of 10% or more.

To address this problem, the Fair Districts coalition is drafting a Constitutional amendment on the Congressional redistricting process to go on the November 2017 ballot. The proposed amendment would put Congressional redistricting in the hands of the bipartisan State Apportionment Board, as defined by the amendment passed in 2015 for drawing district lines for the State Senate and House of Representatives. The board is comprised of the governor, Secretary of State, State Auditor, and two members each from the majority and minority parties in the legislature, appointed by legislative party leaders. To be adopted, a plan must have **bipartisan support, including at least two members of the minority party**. Without bipartisan support, a plan can be adopted for four years, after which a new plan must be developed; all positions on the Apportionment Board will have been up for election during that time. A major difference between the new proposal for Congressional redistricting and the 2015 amendment is that the Congressional proposal does not provide a way for the majority party to enact a plan without support of at least two members of the minority party. If bipartisan agreement cannot be reached, it would be up to the courts to decide on a plan. Backers of the amendment believe this would create a strong incentive for members of the Apportionment Board to devise a plan that gets the support of both parties.

To put this proposal before the voters in November, the coalition will have to gather 305,000 valid signatures of Ohio voters by July 1. A competing proposal has been introduced in the Ohio Senate by Senator Frank LaRose. This plan would leave the process in the hands of the State Legislature, and adoption of a plan would require a majority of both parties - or a 2/3 majority of the legislature. The resolution includes language similar to the 2015 amendment on criteria for districts, including limitations on how counties and cities may be split, but language to reduce partisan advantage as a factor in drawing district lines is aspirational rather than mandatory. If this proposal advances through the legislature by July 31, it will appear on the November ballot.

In 2015, the coalition worked with the legislature to craft an amendment that all parties could support, and a coalition spokesperson indicated that they would be open to doing so again. However, the provision for approval of a redistricting plan by a 2/3 majority of the legislature is unacceptable to the coalition, because a party with a large majority would still be able to control the redistricting process. Currently, the Republican Party holds a 2/3 majority in both houses of the legislature, but if the situation were reversed in the future, the Democratic Party could dominate the process with a similarly one-sided result. The coalition also favors stronger criteria for how district lines are drawn, including an explicit ban on plans which favor or disfavor any party or candidate.

It's unclear whether LaRose's resolution will get through the legislature. Cliff Rosenberger, Speaker of the House, has said that he wants to wait to see how the 2015 amendment works out before changing the Congressional redistricting process. This would mean no changes to how Congressional districts are determined until after the 2030 census.

The complete text of LaRose's resolution is available here: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA132-SJR-3>. You can find the current draft of the coalition's proposed amendment at their website: <http://www.fairdistrictsohio.org/>.

(Continued on Page 7)

Voters across the state are realizing that uncompetitive districts are a major reason that their representatives are no longer responsive to their concerns. The picture below shows the intense interest generated by recent elections of congressional representatives. Over 100 people came together on a Saturday afternoon to hear a speaker from the Fair Districts Coalition discuss the redistricting proposals, and there was a strong consensus that the time for action is now. These organizations, with collaboration and coordination of like-minded groups, including the League, will be looking for assistance in getting petitions signed, in activating grass roots support, and in soliciting monetary contributions. (As much as \$20 million will be needed for a successful ballot campaign.) Check the Ohio LWV website ([www.lwvohio.org](http://www.lwvohio.org)) and the Fair Districts Coalition website (<http://www.fairdistrictsohio.org/>) for updates and opportunities to get involved in the next few months.

Lucy Ann McKosky, Member



## WE WANT YOU!



### Volunteers needed for the Funding & Development Committee

Do you like working with a group of fun, smart people?

Are you creative or good with details?

Do you enjoy planning events?

Looking for a way to get more involved with the League?

The F&D Committee is seeking new members to help plan several events throughout the year. It's a great way to meet other League members, develop your leadership skills, and raise money for voter education.

**For the full scoop on what this committee entails,  
contact F&D members Vivienne Himmell, Peg Schulz,  
or Susan Darcy**

Their numbers can be found in your LWV Membership Handbook or call the office, 937-228-4041.

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

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We are on the Web.  
[www.lwvdayton.org](http://www.lwvdayton.org)

Advocating Voter Education  
and Action on Issues

Current Resident or:

## The Importance of Annual Meeting

The name is bland, but the idea is anything but.

This is our chance to remember (or find out) who we are, and how we relate to our bigger selves; to see how we've grown; to remind ourselves of our mission.

As we value and celebrate our outgoing board, honor our long time members, study our budget for the coming year, and renew our commitment to our long standing by laws, we get to know how this august body has departed itself this past year, and how it will progress for the coming year.

We get to express our voting privilege by approving the new board, by discussing the programs for the following year, and getting a good look at that ever-important budget. But most of all, it is our chance to meet old friends, greet new members, express gratitude for the hard work expended over the past year, and to find out some really exciting news: in this case, our move to new "digs."

Be a part of our "ride to 100 years." May 15, 2017, Goodwill/EasterSeals, 660 S Main St, Dayton, 6—9 pm. The cost is \$20—pay online ([lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org)), mail a check or pay at the door. Please RSVP the office, 937-228-4041 or [league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org) by May 4, 2017.

JOIN US!

Vivienne Himmell