



Celebrating one of our own, Electra Collins Doren

If you are downtown and are looking for a quiet respite, please stop by the recently renovated Electra C. Doren Library. This lovely building, located at 701 Troy Street, is nestled in the historic Old North Dayton Neighborhood. Like Doren herself, the library nurtures the city and the residents it serves, partnering with its neighbors Dayton Children's Medical Center, Kroc Community Center, Head Start, Pathway School of Discovery and the Horizon Science Academy, among others.



During its renovation, I was invited to visit the site to discuss the library's namesake who is largely credited for preserving the photos and stories of our local women's movement. As a suffragist, Doren understood the historical significance of the suffragist movement and amassed a large collection of materials to preserve its history. Following the Great Dayton Flood of 1913, Doren and her staff worked to painstakingly recover these items damaged by the flood. All that they preserved now forms the basis of the Dayton Metro Library's Women's Suffrage Collection.

After my visit, Diane Farrell, Director of External Relations and Development for the Dayton Metro Library system, and I brainstormed the tribute to Electra Doren that graces a plaque in the library with her image. It reads:

In addition to her amazing contributions to the Dayton Metro Library, and the field of Library Sciences, Electra Collins Doren was dedicated to furthering the women's suffrage movement. Ms. Doren provided leadership in founding the League of Women Voters of Dayton, and carefully preserved the history of the suffragist movement for generations of women to come, giving the Dayton Metro Library one of the best and largest collections of suffragist materials in the country.

As our League gets ready to celebrate its 96th Anniversary, it is fitting to remember this League member and community leader who preserved, for us all, the stories, likenesses and struggles of those Dangerous Dames of Dayton whose sacrifices and victories forever changed the role of women in America.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director



All donations as of June 30, 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.

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Recent Contributions Appreciated

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

General Fund [a 501(c)(4) entity]

Jean Dougan, Paula Ewers, June Fellows, Honey Badger Coffee

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It was standing room only at Marion's Piazza on Wednesday night, June 29th. Our panelists were Daniel Birdsong, PhD, Lee Hannah, Jr, PhD from UD and WSU respectively, and Anthony Shoemaker from DDN.

It was a Q & A between the panel and the audience, all of whom were totally engaged in the discussion – while munching on delicious Marion's pizza. The panelists discussed the history of modern day polling that began when a Gallup poll in the 1930s turned out to be completely wrong. That's when pollsters began to seriously study how to find a truly representative sample of the population when polling. After all, it's in the best interest of pollsters that their polls be accurate, so they strive to find the best methods of tapping into the genuine sentiments of the people.



Lee Hannah, Anthony Shoemaker and Daniel Birdsong

The panelists made the following points about polling:

- Polls should not “write the story”; the story should incorporate the polls, but consumers should learn to look further at what actually creates the story
- If polling questions seem unusually biased, it may be a “push poll” that is used internally to determine the effectiveness of certain messages a campaign is trying out – you don't have to answer such broad questions

• If a polling question seems much too broad (for instance: “Do you think the country is heading in the wrong direction”) – unless you have the option to specify why you are saying yes or no, it would be best to not answer to avoid any misinterpretation of your response

- When reporting results, the best polls a) list the exact questions that were used, in the order they were asked; b) give information about the number of people polled or how the sample was selected; c) give a “margin of error” statistic
- When trying to discern the real story, it's best to compare a number of different polls
- For Presidential elections, national polls don't mean too much. What really counts are the polls that look at which way states are leaning because the President is elected by the Electoral College based on which states a candidate wins.

Polls show a snapshot of what people are thinking at a specific point in time. As a predictive tool, the closer the poll is to the actual election, the more accurate it is likely to be.

When trying to understand the full political story, our panelists suggest that consumers get their news from a variety of sources and use websites like PolitiFact.com to verify the facts.

Poll numbers make headlines, and candidates rely on the results of polls. But the public should look at reliable results, and certainly use their own judgment.

Marion's staff were gracious hosts, the panelists were engaging, and everyone departed chatting effusively about the lively discussion.

Vivienne Himmell & Susan Darcy

On May 10, 14 members of the LWVGDA gathered together at Brixx and, over a meal, discussed ways to improve our Speaker's Bureau. Vivienne Himmell and Susan Hesselgesser shared their experiences providing presentations to local groups, including some awkward moments where a men's group started their meeting with a round of "off-color" jokes. But kidding aside, and with some suggestions on how to handle these types of situations, topics discussed included how the speakers bureau works, resources for speakers when making presentations, typical topics requested by organizations, and ways for members of the League to participate in the speakers bureau. Some suggestions recommended by the group included using a shadowing system where new speakers can accompany those who have made previous presentations, developing power point presentations on frequently requested topics such as the history of the League and women's suffrage, informing presenters on how to access information on League policy issues, and tips on making presentations on voting and election issues. The group also discussed developing a new brochure to advertise our speakers bureau and several volunteered to participate in a working group to develop our strategies for advertising our speakers bureau. If you are interested in participating in our League's speakers bureau either as a volunteer to shadow members while they make presentations or by attending the advertising work group, please contact Dianne Herman or the office to inform us of your interest.

Dianne Herman, Coordinator of Speakers Bureau

Who Doesn't Love a Parade?



Join your League on Monday, September 5th as we participate in the annual Holiday at Home Parade in Kettering. Member Pat Stidham has arranged for us to have our very own vintage truck which we will proudly adorn with League patriotic regalia. The parade route is about a mile for those who want to walk along side and pass out American Flags to the crowd. Children, husbands, daughters, sons and grandchildren are welcome to join us! Dress in your patriotic best or your own version of suffragist attire.

Come join us as we celebrate 96 years of advocating for voters in the Greater Dayton Area. Arrival will be about 9AM, Parade begins at 10AM finishes at Noon. Call the office for more details 228-4041.

In Memoriam

Judy Gerhard

We are saddened to announce the passing of long-time member Judy Gerhard who died on June 18, 2015 at the age of 72. Judy was a member of the LWV since 1971. She embodied the League principles throughout her life as she volunteered for the League, worked at the Board of Elections, Ohio Attorney General's office, and Montgomery County Treasurer's Office, served on Englewood City Council, and taught political science and government to Sinclair students. Throughout her life, Judy worked hard to influence public policy through education and advocacy.



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.

2016 DANGEROUS DAMES OF DAYTON
Wednesday, September 21, 6:00 P -- NEW DATE
NCR COUNTRY CLUB, 4435 Dogwood Trail Kettering

The Fourth Annual Dangerous Dames of Dayton featuring Jay Newton-Small has been re-scheduled. We regret the inconvenience. Ticket price is \$96 in honor of the LWVGDA's 96th birthday. Please contact the League office, 937-228-4041 to make your reservation or order online at www.lwvdayton.org.

MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT
Thursday, September 29, 6:30 P
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE AND EDUCATION, 525 Versailles Dr.
Centerville

The League and the Centerville Library are joining with the Jewish Community Relations Council to sponsor a candidates night. Judge Walter Rice will be the MC. More to come in the coming weeks with respect to candidates. We are hoping to attract the senate candidates. The county commission candidates have already agreed to participate.

Be a 2016 Voters Guide Sponsor

2016 VOTERS GUIDE

It's that time of year again! Please support our fall Voters Guide as a Sponsor. All donations are tax deductible.

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

I am a feminist...a hard core, card carrying, foot stomping, unapologetic feminist...but I wasn't always. I grew up in a time when men said "no wife of mine will ever have to work" and we admired them for saying it. On the street where I grew up, all the men drove the family car (only 1 per household back then!) to work every day where it sat in a parking lot for the entire day. The women in my neighborhood were devoted mothers, housekeepers, and cooks, but c'mon...without wheels they didn't have many choices. My mother was the exception. Because my father had a car provided by his employer, mother had the use of our Pontiac and took full advantage of the freedom it made available. Her world got bigger and so did her opinions and her friendships. She got a part time job, which I suspect was a minor, although unspoken, irritant to my father, and she thrived. Against that background of a gentle, mildly feminist upbringing, when I was twenty-one I read The Feminine Mystique and it changed me forever. I was a charter subscriber to Ms. Magazine...Gloria and Bella were my heroes. While gender equality is high on my personal political agenda, a recent survey indicates that 33% of American women do not identify as "feminists," and only 17% of us identify as "strong feminists." Where or what is the disconnect? How do we nudge the national conversation in a direction to further the cause of ending all prejudices, not just gender bias? I don't have the answers, but I sure do want to be part of the conversation. How about you? I want to hear.



Patty Skilken