



The VOTER



December 2016

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
VOLUME 93, ISSUE 12 & VOLUME 94, ISSUE 1

January 2017

Top 10 Holiday Wish List.....

I Wish every League member could see our League as I do; informed, vibrant, interesting, busy, dedicated, opinionated and witty.

I Wish everyone could have seen the Voter Service committee pulling together to meet tough deadlines for BOTH the English and Hispanic editions of the *Guide*.

I Wish everyone could have witnessed member Vivienne Himmell patiently reading the *Voters Guide* to a blind voter who had called the office for assistance.

I Wish our members could observe Funding & Development meetings; these seemingly chaotic events end with great ideas and a pitch perfect 'To Do' List for events that raise much needed funds to keep the League vital and growing.

I Wish everyone could listen in on the newsletter committee as they are folding and preparing the monthly *Voter*; amazing conversations happen around that conference table!

I Wish everyone could witness the passion and commitment of the League members who attend monthly Naturalization ceremonies for Dayton's newest citizens.

I Wish every member would plan to attend one event in 2017; you're going to have a great time!

I Wish every member would ask a friend to join our League – closing in our 100th birthday in 2020, we are on target to be the largest League in the State. Lets make that happen!

I Wish to thank the League Board, my office buddies Mary & Andy, and every League member for continuing the work of the League through volunteerism, donations and incredible support.

Finally, I Wish every member a peaceful holiday season filled with special moments, comfort and joy.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director



All donations as of October 31, 2016

General Fund

Major Leadership Circle Members

President (\$10,000+)

Estate of Johanna Columbro

Vice President (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Talbot Tower Management*

Governor (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Charter Communications

Dr. and Mrs Ronald L. Fletcher

Premier Health

Miami Valley Hospital

Good Samaritan Hospital

Atrium Medical Center

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Senate (\$500 - \$999)

Lee and Pat Bradley-Falke

Dayton Metro Library

Kendall Printing*

Paul Lamberger

Mildred Mooney

Sinclair Community College

University of Dayton

President's Office

Fitz Center for Leadership in the Community

House (\$250 - \$499)

Anonymous

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Barbara Buddendeck

Crossman & Maciorowski

Jack R. Fultz

Paul Gruner, Montgomery County Engineer

John and Susan Hesselgesser**

Becky and James Kirkland

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Phil Plummer, Montgomery County Sheriff

Carolyn Rice, Montgomery County Treasurer

Patty and Ralph Skilken

Kristin Sobolik

Fred Strahorn, State Rep, 39th Dist.

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.

*In-kind contribution

**In-kind + monetary contribution

Education Fund

Current Major Contributors

Anonymous*

Charles D. Berry

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Barbara Buddendeck

Crossman & Maciorowski LLC

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MVCC*

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP

Sinclair Community College

Tom and Judy Thompson

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*.

General Fund [a 501(c)(4) entity] Robert Bell, Susan and Tim Darcy, Leslie Pitstick, Ed and Diane Phillips

Education Fund [a 501(c)(3) entity] Carlene Bennett, DAR Daniel Cooper Chapter, Susan & Tim Darcy, Nancy Glidden, Lucy Anne McKosky, Rhine McLin, Sinclair Community College, JE Gordon Taylor, and Kathleen Turner (in memory of Michelle Himmell Gwynne)

Welcome New Members!

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The University of Dayton Black Law Students' Association Panel Discussion A Critical Examination of Voting Rights Under The Law

The League was invited to participate in the panel discussion that featured Khyla Craine, Assistant General Counsel NAACP; Professor Paul Moke, Professor of Criminal Justice and Political Science at Wilmington College; and Gary Daniels, Chief Lobbyist ACLU. Highlights from the panel discussion follow.

Khyla Craine:

Khyla covered the Voting Rights Act from its passage in 1965 to the *Shelby Co. v. Holder* case in 2013 that stripped certain provisions. "On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby County v. Holder* that the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), which was used to determine the states and political subdivisions subject to Section 5 preclearance, was unconstitutional." The aftershocks from that ruling continue with Congress having the power to provide a legislative remedy.

Professor Moke:

Professor Moke announced a judge's decision in the *A. Phillip Randolph v. Husted* case, a decision that came to his attention hours before the panel discussion convened.

The district court issued an injunction allowing purged voters to vote. He identified 3 Montgomery County communities that would be heavily impacted by a voter purge: Miamisburg, Trotwood, and Huber Heights. He went on to discuss several cases that have already been litigated, but the cases set precedent for rulings relating to voting rights. He cautioned litigants to weigh the pros and cons in considering filing lawsuits taking into account the circuit court where the case would be heard.

Gary Daniels:

Three bills to watch when the Ohio legislature returns from break and enters into a lame duck session:

SB193 (reintroduced)

To eliminate intermediate political parties and to revise the processes for determining political party status and for establishing new political parties.

SB 296

Legislation to specify requirements for lawsuits concerning election procedures. To specify the conditions under which a court may order that a polling place be kept open for extended hours on the day of an election, and to require a person who votes during those extended hours to cast a provisional ballot.

SB 63

Senate Bill 63 (create an on-line voter registration system) passed the Ohio Senate with near unanimous support and is awaiting a hearing in the Ohio House of Representatives.

Valerie Lee, Action Chair, shared voter resources including *Voters Guides* and Vote411 election information.

The forum was informational and well attended.



Valerie Lee, Action Chair

Join us for our next League Quarterly Dinner Meeting on **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00.** We will meet at **Thai 9 in the Oregon District.** Thai 9 is located at 11 Brown St., but you can also enter the parking lot from 5th Street. There is no pre-pay for this event; attendees order off the menu and pay individually.

We will have plenty of information to share about the 2016 election and the programs we have planned for 2017. We would love to see all of our new members attend. This is a great way to meet other members of the League and find out ways you can become involved in League activities. If you are an existing member, this is your opportunity to reconnect with the League!

If you plan to attend, **please** RSVP by calling or emailing the League office at 937-228-4041 or league@lwvdayton.org by January 6. We really need a head count to make sure we have enough space reserved.

We look forward to seeing you!

Susan Byerly, President Elect



Future Focus Meeting (aka Program Planning Meeting)



On Monday, January 23rd from 6-9 pm, the League will meet at the Goodwill Easter Seals Building at 660 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH 45402 for the Future Focus Meeting. At the meeting, participants will discuss and vote on program topics for 2017-2018. Participants will also be asked to review various State League of Women Voters position statements and vote on whether they should be maintained, revised, or abandoned.

Dinner will be provided at the meeting for a cost of \$25. If you are able to attend, please contact the League office at 937-228-4041, or RSVP online via the League's website. If paying by check, send to League of Women Voters, 131 N Ludlow St, Ste 1208, Dayton OH 45402-1703. We welcome all League members to come and weigh-in on what topics are of interest to you and help guide the future of the League.

Ana Crawford, Program VP

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.

The *John W. Pratt Legacy Award* honors an individual or group for long-term significant advocacy on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities. The annual Award is presented in conjunction with the kickoff ceremonies of the community campaign for Partners For Community Living, the partnership between the Resident Home Association and Choices In Community Living. *Partners For Community Living* was named the 2015 Community Member of the Year by the Ohio Provider Resource Association (OPRA.)



Brenda J. Whitney served as Executive Director of the Resident Home Association for more than 30 years prior to her retirement in 2008. As she was working tirelessly to establish RHA, (one of the first private residential providers in Ohio) she was active in advising and assisting in the development of other agencies throughout Champaign, Miami, Greene, Preble and other counties. She would serve three terms over two decades as president of the Ohio Provider Resource Association. Professionals she mentored would

go on to establish programs and services across Ohio that in some measure had her mark upon them. She was an active advocate in the development of the statewide **Lest We Forget** initiative. Her commitment to her community also includes service as a volunteer with the Montgomery County Juvenile Court and as an active member of the League of Women Voters. Brenda is the third recipient of the **Legacy Award**, which has been presented to Vivienne Himmell (2014) and Nancy Wilson (2015.)

The John W. Pratt Legacy Award honors the long-time dedicated service and advocacy of John W. Pratt, whose pioneering work with other families led to the range of person-centered, community-based services that are available today.



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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Advocating Voter Education
and Action on Issues

Current Resident or:

Our President's Corner

Once again, twice in recent history and several times earlier, the candidate for the Presidency who won the majority of votes from our citizens will not be sworn in as President. In Gore v. Bush, Al Gore received 500,000 more votes than George Bush, yet Bush became our President. At last count as I write this (and they are still counting!), Clinton received 1,700,000 more votes than Trump, yet Trump will become our President. Why? Because we do not elect our President...the Electoral College does. The National LWV, LWVUS, has long advocated for the elimination of the Electoral College so that the selection of our leader will be determined by the majority of the popular vote...putting the election where it belongs...in the hands of the citizens. Not only is the Electoral College obsolete, it is a convoluted set of allocation rules that vary from state to state. Some states allocate electoral votes by voting district and some states award electoral votes "winner takes all." According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, twenty states do not even require that Electoral College members vote for the candidate that won their electoral vote according to the rules of that particular state! How many times have you heard, or said, "Every Vote Counts?" Sadly, that is simply not true. Several states are still counting votes, a meaningless exercise at this point. Do you ever wonder how things might be different, now or in the future, if the path not taken, the path we chose, had been the path taken? Those thoughts will continue to be with us until the choice is returned to us...the American people...where it belongs.



Patty Skilken, President