

THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area
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POLITICS – UGH!



The above title is not mine; it is borrowed from an LWVGDA newsletter (then dubbed the Dayton Woman Citizen) published March 7, 1922 author, unfortunately, unknown. The article begins like this: “The number of conflicting labels pasted on the local League of Women Voters seems to indicate that it is something new under the sun. ... The men, you see are used to thinking of governmental affairs mainly as they offer opportunity to put one party in and the other party out. And when the ladies come along in their innocent enthusiasm, with the suggestion that government and the public welfare be considered as of primary importance, we are told it can’t be done. But we believe that it can...”

Then, as now, there is no denying we are in the midst of political overload. Our nation is divided and those division lines run straight through the hearts of families and friendships, where we live, and even where we pray. Politics – UGH! Upside, everyone SHOULD be engaged in politics; downside is the frustration when we feel we should be doing something that will make a difference. Our best shot as a League is to focus on our local mission of bringing nonpartisan information on issues and candidates to the voters we serve in Montgomery & Greene counties. We do this in many ways, but the golden key to community service is through the *Voters Guide*.

For those of you who are unfamiliar, the *Guide* is the well-respected newspaper the Dayton League has produced since 1922. It is filled with information on who can vote and the when, where and how to vote in local elections. It contains nonpartisan explanations of ballot issues and the candidate information is written in the candidate’s own words without corrections to grammar, spelling or punctuation. The *Voters Guide* is our claim to fame and is beloved and well-respected by all.

Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy. YOU as a member of the League can continue our history and make a difference by educating voters and encouraging them to vote.

Please donate to the *Voters Guide*! Our League distributes 100,000 hard copies throughout Montgomery and Greene counties. The cost per thousand is approximately \$80, not including set up and insertion fees. All donors are listed in the *Guide*! Help ease your frustration, donate to the *Voters Guide* and help make our democracy work! Feel free to contact me with questions or details, 228-4041.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA



UPCOMING EVENTS



- ◆ Thursday, July 12 from 7-9pm, **QUARTERLY MEETING** at the Yellow Springs Brewery, 305 Walnut St., Yellow Springs. See pg 5 for details. Some League members will be serving beer during the event and the League will earn \$1.00 for every beer sold, so bring your friends and raise a pint or two!

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

General Fund - a 501(c)(4) entity

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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 the Leadership Circle list.

Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity

CURRENT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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LIFESAVER*



*thanks
for all you do*



* In-kind contribution

** In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

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 Dr. Kathleen A. Farmer, Paul Lamberger, Judy & Tom Thompson

Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity Anthony Shoemaker, Stephanie Smith, The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation

Our League has served us well; help it continue to serve the next generation. Consult your attorney or your financial advisor to see how easy it can be to put the League in your will. Call the League, 228-4041, for more information on how to designate your donation to the League of Women Voters 501(c)(4), or to the Dayton Area League of Women Voters Education Fund 501(c)(3).



New Members

5/16/18–6/15/18



Zach Dickerson

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Dale.anne.b@gmail.com

Music to Our Ears!

LEAGUE'S RECENT

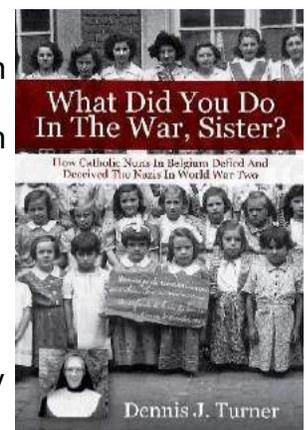
DINE & DISH

A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

At the League's June 12th Dine & Dish, we all enjoyed a sumptuous buffet at the Top of the Market and heard University of Dayton Professor of Law Dennis Turner present fascinating behind-the-scenes information about his recent book *What Did You Do in the War, Sister?*

After reviewing hundreds of letters written by Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who were living in German-occupied Belgium during WWII, Professor Turner was compelled to give these letters a voice and tell the true story of the courageous sisters who risked their own lives to hide refugees and Jews from the Nazis. The book is an imaginative non-fiction memoir based on actual events and contains more history than fiction. Father James Heft, Society of Mary, perfectly describes the book when he says: it is the wonderful story of "...sisters of Notre Dame who, with holy delight foiled the Nazis." For more information about the book or Professor Turner, please visit his website: www.dennisjturner.com. By the way, Dennis is the husband of our own member, Kathleen Turner, who was the "first and kindest editor" for the book.

At the end of the evening, Professor Turner introduced a lovely young woman from Afghanistan who told us her story of the terrible oppressive conditions in her country – her father was murdered, she was told to either stop seeking an education or she would be killed too. She chose another option and came by herself to the United States with \$120. Arriving at the Immigration Office in Baltimore at 9pm, she ended up in a homeless shelter for two weeks and then sought help at a church where she met a religious sister who had ties with the University of Dayton. This spring Khadeja Farahmand graduated from the University of Dayton Law School and hopes to work in Washington, D.C. At the end of her story, two people in our audience offered to personally help Khadeja find her job in D.C. It was a moving evening in so many ways.





OHIO LEAGUE NEWS

LWVO_{OHIO}

Supreme Court Upholds Voter Purge Standard

Leagues in Ohio were disappointed to hear of the Supreme Court 5-4 decision to allow Ohio's voter suppression tactics, in which infrequent voters can be targeted and deprived of the constitutional right to vote. Ohio has a controversial practice of removing voters from the rolls who have not cast ballots in years.

We believe the State of Ohio should be working to increase voter participation, not make it harder – especially for marginalized and less-frequent voters like active duty military, people with disabilities, people of color, low-income individuals, and college students. Since 2011 over 4.6 million notices have been sent to Ohio residents who were in danger of being taken off the rolls. The Secretary of State says he doesn't have a number of how many of those people have been removed.

Fortunately, the office of the Secretary of State is instructing county boards of elections not to purge hundreds of thousands of Ohioans from voting rolls before the Nov. 6 election. Ohioans whose registrations otherwise could be cancelled for failing to vote during a six-year span and failing to respond to notices will remain eligible to vote this year.

Our League with Leagues across the state will continue to work on behalf of Ohio voters to ensure that democracy works for everyone. Please check or update your voter registration at www.sos.state.oh.us click Elections & Voting, then Voters: MYOHIOVOTE.COM.

Jen Miller, Executive Director LWVO & Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director LWVGDA

LWV Ohio was elated that Ohio voters took the first major step towards ending gerrymandering in our state with the passage of Issue 1. In order to make certain there is adherence to the approved safeguards for bipartisanship, transparency and public input in the law, we believe it is equally imperative that we take yet one more step and eliminate the gerrymandered district map that will still be in use for 2020 elections. Having fair districts in place before the 2020 census will provide voters with the kind of fair election that they would not otherwise have as we go into the next crucial decade of making democracy work for all.



Yours in League, *Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, LWVO Co-President*



The love of one's country is a splendid thing.
But why should love stop at the border?

~Pablo Casals



YES! I want to be a sponsor of the *Voters Guide*.

I've enclosed my tax deductible gift of:

- \$80/1,000 copies \$160/2000 copies \$240/3000 copies \$320/4000 copies
- \$400/5000 copies \$480/6000 copies \$560/7000 copies \$640/8000 copies
- \$720/9000 copies \$800/10000 copies \$_____ Other Donation

Name of Business, Individual or Group for *Voters Guide* Listing:

I would like to have the *Voters Guide* in my business

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: LWV Education Fund /127 N. Ludlow Street /Dayton, OH 45402



LWV POSITION ON GUN CONTROL



Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.



QUARTERLY MEETING

Thursday, July 12 from 7~9pm

Yellow Springs Brewery
305 Walnut St, Yellow Springs



Some League members will be serving beer during the event and the League will earn \$1.00 for every beer sold, so bring your friends and raise a pint or two!

INJUSTICES IN A JUST SOCIETY



Now that the Ohio legislators have returned to the Statehouse, the rush to pass bills is in full swing. One bill that continues to surface is known as the stand your ground law. This piece of legislation, first passed in Florida, became widely known when used as a defense for George Zimmerman following the killing of an unarmed young African American male who was returning to his dad's home. Zimmerman successfully used the stand your ground defense and was cleared of all charges.

The four main components of this bill include the following:

- Allows for the removal of a party's "duty to retreat"
- Provides immunity from civil action that may arise and establishes the right to a pretrial immunity hearing
- Provides immunity from criminal prosecution based on the use of deadly force
- Restores the burden of proof to the prosecution to disprove a self-defense claim

This legislation appears to allow a citizen under a "perceived" threat to act as judge, jury, and executioner and Ohio law would give them a free pass.

In the wake of a growing number of situations when citizens under a "perceived threat" have called police to intervene, one would question the wisdom of sanctioning lethal actions. In one situation, an African American real estate investor, while checking one of his properties, was faced with a screaming neighbor who had no interest in his efforts to explain his presence but preferred to call the police. An African American Yale University student was confronted by police after a dorm neighbor reported her napping in a common area. A neighbor reported a burglary in progress as a group of African American females were exiting an Airbnb.

Given the prevalence of guns in our society, some might take comfort in having law enforcement involved, however that also can lead to deadly circumstances. With stand your ground legislation, neighbors have the right to intervene and use deadly force frequently without legal ramifications for their actions. The loss of innocent lives has the potential to increase simply due to implicit biases coupled with the availability of a gun.

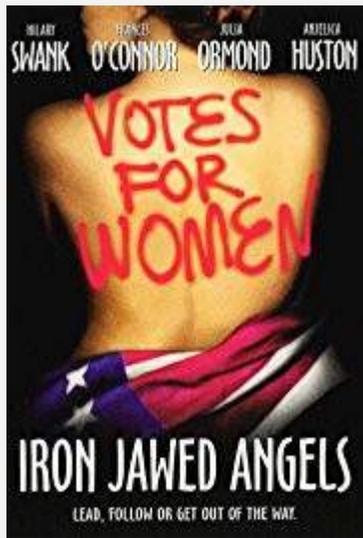
I applaud the efforts of champions for gun sense legislation such as Gabby Giffords, who experienced gun violence and lived, to utilize an indefatigable spirit to promote positive change. Stand your ground legislation does not meet that standard. We can all become champions of gun sense legislation through the power of our vote.

Valerie Lee, Action Chair



Gabby Giffords exiting a Cincinnati rally

June 13, 2018



JULY WOMEN'S HISTORY TRIVIA

“July 14, 1917—Sixteen women from the National Women’s Party were arrested while picketing the White House demanding universal women’s suffrage. They were charged with obstructing traffic and sent to the prison at Occoquan on July 17. As a result of the suffrage pickets in the Washington D.C. area, approximately 168 women, most from the National Women’s Party, were detained and mistreated at the medium security Occoquan from June to December. The women, including the wife of a sitting U.S. Senator, suffered under unsanitary and inhumane conditions.

The 2004 film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, portrayed their lives while in the prison.”

~ excerpted from <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.NYS/posts/1472658982791398>

“Katja von Garnier's "Iron Jawed Angels" tells the remarkable and little-known story of a group of passionate and dynamic young women, led by Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and her friend Lucy Burns (Frances O'Connor), who put their lives on the line to fight for American women's right to vote.

“Swank and O'Connor head an outstanding female ensemble, with Julia Ormond, Molly Parker, Laura Fraser, Brooke Smith and Vera Farmiga as a rebel band of young women seeking their seat at the table; and such cinematic icons as Lois Smith, Margo Martindale, and Anjelica Huston as the steely older generation of suffragettes.

“This true story has startling parallels to today, as the young activists struggle with issues such as the challenges of protesting a popular President during wartime and the perennial balancing act between love and career. Utilizing a pulsing soundtrack, vivid colors, and a freewheeling camera, Katja von Garnier's ("bandits") driving filmmaking style shakes up the preconceptions of the period film and gives history a vibrant contemporary energy and relevance.”

(Drama, Release Date: 9/7/04, Run Time: 124 min., Not Rated) ~ excerpted from <http://iron-jawed-angels.com/>



HISTORY, DESPITE ITS
WRENCHING PAIN,
CANNOT BE UNLIVED,
BUT IF FACED WITH
COURAGE, NEED NOT BE
LIVED AGAIN.
DR. MAYA ANGELOU

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Dayton, OH 45402-1703



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*Busy Executive Director,
Susan Hesselgesser,
teaching granddaughter, Brynn,
about multitasking.*

Advocating Voter Education and Action on Issues

Current Resident or:

League to Participate in First Annual Tour de Gem



2018 DAYTON CYCLING CLASSIC
Presented by the Rotary Club of Dayton

Sunday, Sept 2 our League will participate in this new event, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Dayton as an on-going fundraising vehicle for nonprofits in our community.

Tour de Gem was created to foster a sense of community, history, pride and healthy living through cycling while establishing an ongoing fundraising vehicle for local charities. League Treasurer Becky Kirkland has already registered the League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area in this race and is acting captain for our team.



How can you participate?

- ⇒ If you want to ride, sign up to join the League Team. The website assists participants in setting up a donation page.
- ⇒ If you want to support the League team by donating to our team, go to tourdegem.org to donate to Becky as your rider.
- ⇒ The ride is for all ages with a variety of different routes varying from 3, 6, 10 miles to 107 miles and helmets are mandatory for all riders. Start/Finish of the ride is at Don Crawford Plaza at 5/3 field. Further details will be available in the weeks ahead. Please join us in this exciting new venture for the community and to raise money for our League.