



THE VOTER

A Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area



1920-2019

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What Does Citizenship Mean to You?

According to Wikipedia, being a citizen implies rights and responsibilities, whether you are a citizen of the world, your country, your state, your community, or your family. As a member of a community, you have the right and the responsibility to participate fully, to be informed about that group, to care for the other members of that group, and to care for the world in which the group lives.

Recently I shared that one of the guilty pleasures of my job is to occasionally attend naturalization ceremonies. A few months ago, our League applied for and received a grant from LWVUS to reach out to new citizens by registering them to vote on the day they become citizens. With permission from the Jury Administrator of the U.S. District Court, we now have unfettered access and time to spend with our new neighbors. Naturally born Americans are blessed with automatic citizenship. But for these new residents, citizenship means taking the Oath of Allegiance of the United States:



I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

I cannot imagine relinquishing my allegiance to the United States of America; with all its flaws, it is still my country. But for them, this day is the end of a long journey. To get into this courtroom, interviews and tests have been taken, fees have been paid, and ties have been broken. This is a new beginning and the only tears shed are mine, as their excitement to be an American is honorable, humble, and contagious. The enthusiasm for the opportunity to register to vote is real, almost reverent. How I wish every American felt the same.

The responsibility of citizenship belongs to each of us: to care for other each other regardless of our differences, to be informed, and to participate. Our newly registered citizens are prepared to do just that, and I am grateful for their company.

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA

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Women's History Project Greene County

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.



To support the LWVGDA Education Fund:

Log on to lwvdayton.org

On the left side of our homepage, click on "Education Fund" under "Our League." On the left side of that page, you will see a big Kroger button. Click on that and follow the directions. Our name is: League of Women Voters GDA Education Fund.

Our account is #XM870.



-LWV of Greater Dayton Area-

Centennial Dangerous Dames of Dayton Celebration

We are so excited to announce our guest speaker for the League's Centennial Dangerous Dames of Dayton Celebration will be **SUSAN PAGE**; Washington Bureau chief of *USA Today* and political contributor for CNN & MSNBC. Susan was the president of the White House Correspondents Association, and has interviewed the past eight presidents. She is currently touring the country with her newest book, *The Matriarch, Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty*.



The Centennial Celebration will be held at the Dayton Art Institute on **Saturday, March 7, 2020**, at 6 pm. Tickets are \$100 in celebration of 100 years of women's securing the right to vote. Page's book, *The Matriarch*, will be available through the League office.

Call the League office at 937.228.4041 to make your reservation and reserve your book, or email league@lwvdayton.org.

June 18 Dine & Dish

meet

1873 African-American Suffragette Jewelia Ann Galloway Higgins

as told through the stories of

Andrea Walker-Cummings

XX



Ms. Higgins, a Dayton native lived her life as a suffragette, African American civic leader and community activist. She will be well-represented at the June Dine & Dish by historian and artist Andrea Walker-Cummings. Ms. Cummings is a member of the African American Visual Arts Guild and creates her art through hand needlework. Please join us on **Tuesday, June 18** for a stroll through Dayton in the 1800s prior to the 19th Amendment. Jewelia was part of the Dayton Woman's Suffragist Association, which unlike many suffragist groups from across the country, actively sought to work cooperatively with African American women and immigrants.

The program starts at 5:30 pm and will be held at Dayton Woman's Club. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at lwvdayton.org via PayPal. Or send your check, payable to LWV Education Fund, to the League office at 127 N. Ludlow Dayton 45402.



OHIO LEAGUE NEWS

~A Victory for Every Ohio Voter~



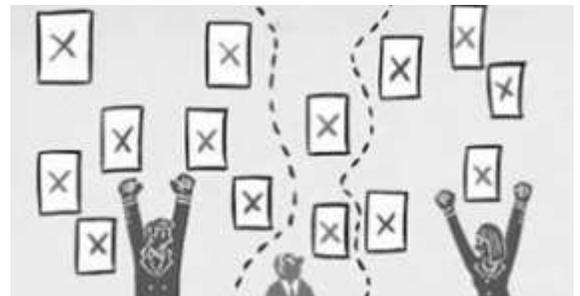
A three-judge federal panel unanimously ruled May 3 that Ohio's gerrymandered congressional district map is unconstitutional, and ordered the creation of a new map in time for the 2020 election. This is the latest in a series of decisions across the country striking down partisan maps, including in neighboring Michigan and Pennsylvania. Supreme Court rulings are pending for cases out of North Carolina and Maryland. The American Civil Liberties Union

of Ohio, on behalf of the League of Women Voters and others, filed the suit a year ago in an attempt to move up the timetable for congressional redistricting reform in the state.

“This ruling is a victory for every Ohio voter, because a fair congressional map before 2020 means a stronger democracy for the Buckeye State,” said Jen Miller, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio.

The court ordered the state to create a new map by June 14. But if the state fails to adopt a constitutional version of the map for Ohio's 16 congressional districts, the court may then do so itself. “We join the other federal courts that have held partisan gerrymandering unconstitutional and developed substantially similar standards for adjudicating such claims,” the ruling read in part.

“We are convinced by the evidence that this partisan gerrymander was intentional and effective and that no legitimate justification accounts for its extremity.... [T]he 2012 map dilutes the votes of Democratic voters by packing and cracking them into districts that are so skewed toward one party that the electoral outcome is predetermined. We conclude that the map unconstitutionally burdens associational rights by making it more difficult for voters and certain organizations to advance their aims, be they pro-Democratic or pro-democracy.”



The judges in their ruling laid out an aggressive timetable to create a new map, ordering the state to “enact a remedial plan consistent” with the court's opinion by June 14. That plan and details of how the new map was determined must be submitted by **June 21**. The advocates who brought the suit will then have a week to object to the new map. An appeal is possible directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.



NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

Doing Justice:

A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law

~By Valerie Lee

It was my privilege to attend America's Town Hall meeting at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia this past April. The evening featured Prett Bharara, former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), interviewed by the Center's CEO, Jeffrey Rosen, and delved into Bharara's new book, *Doing Justice*. Given the League's commitment to a

criminal justice system with a foundation of fairness and opportunity, the book provides a blueprint for how cases should be prosecuted in order to achieve those goals. The process must be fair, and those involved with the process must be fair minded.



After all, every human being's life in this world is inevitably mixed with every other life and, no matter what laws we pass, no matter what precautions we take, unless the people we meet are kindly and decent and human and liberty-loving, then there is no liberty. Freedom comes from human beings, rather than from laws and institutions.

Clarence Darrow - People v. Henry Sweet

That quote guided Bharara's principles as he sought to be a justice-minded lawyer. A key point he cited was the importance of time to deliberate and weigh the facts as part of the inquiry. The recent release of the Ken Burns's documentary about the Central Park Five provides a perfect example of the aftermath of a rush to judgment.

Bharara was asked about the Mueller investigation and, in summation, he indicated Mueller laid out all of the facts, leaving it up to Congress to decide the next steps. It was also his view that in order for that to happen, Congress should be entitled to a less-redacted version of the Mueller report.

Given the wide range of cases prosecuted in the SDNY, Bharara had no shortage of material to draw from in his examination of our justice system. A copy of the book is now available in the LWV lending library.



Dangerous Dames of Dayton: Two College students share their observations

Two students were recommended by UD political science professor Dr. Christopher Devine to be young guests at our recent Dangerous Dames of Dayton event. We invited them to share their reflections with us.

Emma Coning

This upcoming year is the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment—the amendment that gave women the right to vote across the country. The League of Women Voters put on an incredible event, with the marvelous Elaine Weiss as the keynote speaker, in honor of this approaching anniversary. Elaine spoke about her book, *The Woman's Hour*, and the fight of American suffragists for their constitutional rights. She explained that these women “wanted to change the nation and they wanted to change the world.” And change the nation and the world they did. The skill with which Elaine tells the story of a few such extraordinary women is enthralling and captivating. These women were “ingenious, disruptive, bad, and they were brave.” They had a crazy idea to overthrow the existing notions of gender norms and expectations, and it turned out to be one of the most amazing stories of courage, fortitude, and determination. I am eternally grateful to Elaine for being one of the amazing women out there, telling our stories of perseverance and bravery so that future generations have a legacy to look back on and say, “I can do it, just watch me.”

Michaela Grant

Never having been to such a sophisticated event as the Dangerous Dames of Dayton, I was not sure what to expect when I arrived at the NCR Country Club. I quickly realized that the people in attendance have done and continue to do incredibly impactful work in this community, and I felt immense gratitude to be at such an enlightening event. Hearing the accounts of both Vivienne Himmell and Joyce C. Young motivated me to become more educated in the realms of activism and volunteerism, specifically ways in which I can better the world around me to make democracy work for all, not just a select group. Elaine Weiss's portion of the evening elucidated my understanding of the challenging timeline and journey towards ratification of the 19th Amendment. Weiss's telling of the history captured the complicated nature of the lifespan of the women's suffrage movement, which I had previously not realized in its entirety. Weiss's speaking skills are thoroughly polished and entertaining while remaining educational, which I found to be my favorite part of the event. As the Dangerous Dames of Dayton event came to a close, I found myself reinvigorated and inspired to change how I go forward in my future endeavors.

SUFFRAGISTS: AND THEY PERSISTED!

Miami Valley Art Quilt Network (MVAQN) celebrates the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment

This fascinating exhibit of art quilts will move to the Dayton Metro Library (Main Library location) starting June 1 through July 23. I was fortunate to see the exhibit while it was on display at Washington-Centerville library and I can give a “shout out” to the talented artists who put their talents to work to shine a light on the suffragists. You don't want to miss it.

For more information, visit the MVAQN website:

<http://www.mvaqn.com/suffragists-and-they-persisted/>

~Valerie Lee, Action Chair



VOLUNTEER VOICES



Plug in with Passion

What if you could assist 25 people in one hour to register to vote, knowing that each form has been completed correctly? Also knowing that, before the next election, a *Voters Guide* and letter listing voting resources will be mailed to each of those who

register? Now you can! LWVGDA member Wendy Dyer is over the moon about this opportunity, and **needs several more**

volunteers to join the team. Wendy, along with Sue Hesselgesser, executive director for LWVGDA, has been registering voters at their naturalization ceremony as part of a grant from the LWVUS. Sue calls this an unprecedented agreement with James Tosto, jury administrator for the U.S.

District Court, and Kenny Henning from the Secretary of State's office. Sue and Wendy registered voters at two ceremonies in March and one in April, averaging 25 new voters each time.

This is the kind of activity that drew Wendy to the LWV in 2016—the opportunity to participate in nonpartisan efforts to uphold democracy and encourage educated participation in the process. She values the League for the resource it is in the

community, and says that after people become naturalized citizens, they will have heard about the League of Women Voters twice and have been given a pen with contact information for the League. “It’s important that the League is involved in informing

voters and encouraging them to be part of the democratic process,” Wendy adds.

After all the paperwork and effort newly naturalized citizens have gone through, Wendy wants to make voter registration as easy as possible. Having League members there to walk them through the process and ensure the form is completed correctly is a wonderful way to welcome new U.S. citizens. She is looking for **five more** League members to each help a few times during the year.

Naturalization ceremonies take place on Thursday afternoons once or twice per month, and the League is permitted to assist with voter registration at 12:30 – 1:30 pm on those days, before the swearing in ceremony at 2:00 pm.

If this interests you, contact me at 937.409..0536 or laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net. Looking for other ways to plug into the League? I look forward to hearing from you!

“It’s important that the League is involved in informing voters and encouraging them to be part of the democratic process”

~Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator

Talbott Tower
127 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

*"Now that you have the vote,
what are you going to do with it?"*

-founder Carrie Chapman Catt



For up-to-date League happenings, legislative alerts and news, check out our Facebook page, LWV Dayton OH.

Then SHARE our page with friends and family!

Current Resident or:

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						JUN 1 Great Adventure Race stops at LWV
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 Board Meeting	11	12 Articles due for <i>The Voter</i>	13	14 FLAG DAY	15
16	17	18 Dine and Dish 5:30 pm	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	JUL 1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13