



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area
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Finding Inspiration in Unexpected Places

We are all aware the opioid epidemic has contaminated communities throughout Ohio and across the nation. Though the statistics are a moving target, the *New York Times* recently reported roughly 64,000 people died of opioid overdoses in 2017; tens of thousands use opioids on a regular basis.



Imagine you live in a neighborhood hit hard with the foreclosure crisis of 2007-2008 leaving working families in the grip of the Great Recession. Neighborhoods along North Main Street in Dayton fell victim to the recession. Vacant houses and absentee landlords threw Five Oaks, Riverdale, and others into disrepair. Drug dealers and pimps moved in to claim the properties and make the communities their own.

Recently, the *Dayton Daily News* carried the story of the mysterious deaths of five women whose bodies were found within a mile radius between these communities. Four of the deaths were homicides, the other body too decomposed to determine cause of death. The bodies went days without being found amongst abandoned homes, properties overgrown with brush and alleys covered in trash and broken glass, a horribly depressing story to read on a Sunday afternoon, - until the end of the article.

Enter the piece about Victoria McNeal and Lynn LaMance, two moms living in these communities who are determined to make the best of a gut-wrenching situation. The two regularly patrol the alleyways, cut down bushes, remove trash, paint over graffiti, and take time to show kindness to the women walking the streets. They report to the police broken lights and properties that need to be boarded up. Victoria and Lynn agonize over the women who were murdered; it is for them they continue to peer into trash-filled abandoned places. Determined and unafraid, they have galvanized volunteers to make things better. The League of Women Voters decided we needed to help.

Jo Columbro, former president of LWVGDA and friend to environmental causes, passed away November 2014 leaving behind a legacy to our League. In her memory, under the guidance of then President Dona Fletcher, we established the Jo Columbro Environmental Award. This year the award was given to Victoria and Lynn at the March Dangerous Dames of Dayton celebration. The funds will be used to buy the materials they need to continue their work. We applaud these incredible women for the courage and determination that makes their neighborhood a little safer for North Dayton Families.

Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Tuesday, May 8 - Primary Election - VOTE!
- ◆ Wednesday, May 23—ANNUAL MEETING/DINNER, Dayton Woman's Club @ 5:30 PM



DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

MAJOR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

VICE PRESIDENT (\$5,000+)

Talbot Tower Management*

CABINET (\$2,500 - \$4,499)

Jo Columbro Bequest
Bob and Mary Winfree**



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

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Miami Valley Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital
Atrium Medical Center
Upper Valley Medical Center

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Dayton Metro Library
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Michael R. Merz
Sandra Neargarder
Sinclair Community College
University of Dayton
President's Office
Fitz Center, Leadership in Community



HOUSE (\$250 - \$499)

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Susan Byerly
Vincent and Andrea Cobb
Jack R. Fultz
Paul Gruner, Mont Cnty Engineer
John and Susan Hesselgesser**
Vivienne and Roger Himmell**
Herbert Lee
Ellen T. McCloskey
Elzie McIntyre, Jr.
Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr., Dayton City Commission
David and Sharen Neuhardt
Pickrel, Schaeffer & Ebeling LPA
Preferred Planning Associates
(Becky & James Kirkland)
Margaret M. Quinn
Carolyn Rice, Mont Cnty Treasurer
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 non-partisan; 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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Peggy Berry
David & Susan Bodary
Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
Crossman & Maciorowski, LLC
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Dayton Bar Association Foundation
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Bill Gerhard - in Memory of Judy Gerhard
Sharon Harmer
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Sinclair Community College
Tom & Judy Thompson
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
Bob & Mary Winfree

GRACIAS

* 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 Susan Byerly, Kenneth and Rosemary Curp, Michael and Wendy Dyer, James & Barbara Gorman, Mary Jones, Ellen McCloskey, Kathleen Peoples, Robert and Katherine Stealey, Jan Underwood

Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity Dr. Soma and Veni Avva, Bill Gerhard - in Memory of Judy Gerhard, Robert and Katherine Stealey

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

3/29/18-4/17/18

Robyn F. Angel
422 Glendora Ave.
Oakwood, OH 45409
(937) 234-7365
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Josie Everett, student member
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Waynesville, OH 45068

**Adrienne Peters &
Gwendolyn Peters**
(student member)
1589 Constance Ave.
Kettering, OH 45409
(937) 643-0818
awehrley@hotmail.com

The Struggle for Women's Rights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXCnHvQzoOU>



**WOMEN
RISING**

This was the opening slide used by the featured speaker at the celebration of International Women's Day hosted by Turkish American Society Ohio (TASO). Joy Schwab, founding member of Dayton Women's Rights Alliance, was the speaker. Women from area organizations and agencies that promote the rights of women were invited and encouraged to attend. Joy prepared an excellent Power-Point presentation that followed the struggle for women's rights starting at Seneca Falls in 1848. In discussing voting rights, one slide best exemplified where things stand even in our enlightened times by displaying a world map with a time line indicating when voting rights were granted in the different countries, with Saudi Arabia granting voting rights for women as recently as 2011 (<http://brilliantmaps.com/womens-suffrage-world/>).

The talk was particularly revealing and energizing for the Turkish women, with women's rights in crisis in their homeland. "Today the positive image of a democratic, prosperous and powerful Turkey has been replaced by one of chaos, authoritarianism, systemic corruption, terrorist attacks and a major downturn in relations with the transatlantic community." (Omer Taspinar-Great Decisions) Sadly, the women from Turkey could draw parallels with America's domestic violence problem. In a publication entitled *Advocates of Silenced Turkey*, made available to those in attendance, the following was noted: "Domestic violence is appallingly common, with Turkey's Ministry of Family and Social Policies reporting that a jaw-dropping 86% of women in Turkey reported experiencing physical or psychological violence from a partner or family member." Similarly, the issue of mass incarceration was relatable. The failed coup attempt in July, 2016 allowed for a legal state of emergency that gave the government the right to jail anyone believed to pose a threat to national security. Hundreds of women and children have been jailed as a consequence of that legal interpretation. An appeal has been made to UNICEF for diplomatic intervention with the Turkish government seeking the release of women and children.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2018/02/13/hundreds-young-turkish-children-jailed-alongside-their-moms-as-part-post-coup-crackdown.html>

The TASO provided Turkish food and conversation with the guests. Suggestions for ways to continue the camaraderie were exchanged. Organizations and agencies in attendance agreed to help shine a spotlight on the situation in Turkey from a woman's perspective. Since the League has not taken a position on this issue, independent study and investigation by members and friends of the League are encouraged.



OHIO LEAGUE NEWS

LWVO_{OHIO}

Dayton Courthouse Square: March 24, 2018



In a letter to the editor in the *New York Times*, Maryland resident Patricia Weller made the following observation: *“Even at 72 I can still be awed, mesmerized and more hopeful than ever before. Emotionally spent after watching hours of young people marching for their lives and for the lives of everyone, I realized that hope is ours because of them.”*

Below are observations from our League members who attended the local march. I end with comments from Karen L. who was in attendance at the Cincinnati march. *Valerie Lee, Action Chair*

Viv Himmell: I came away with pure joy from the passion of the young people who spoke. I was disappointed at the crowd - mostly white, mostly older (in spite of the cold weather) and very passionate also.

Val Lee: A parent brought her son to the voter registration table letting us know he had turned 18 and he didn't want to vote. My response was to get him registered and we would be able to continue the debate. When you attempt to strike a match, sometimes it takes multiple attempts but you stay with it until the flame ignites. The rally gave me hope and promise that we can, we must, continue to ignite flames across this country.

Jane Katsuyama: Visuals & voices etched in my mind: 1) a pre-schooler sitting on his father's shoulders holding a sign "March for Our Lives"; 2) diverse races and generations embracing; and 3) the inspiration and energy imparted by the young students who strongly and eloquently expressed their determination to make change and urging everyone there to vote. My thoughts after the event ended: This is a new beginning - a youthful cry for everyone to be at the table and to work to be transparent AND responsible. As a parent and grandparent and a former public school teacher, I embrace their challenge!

Yvonne Curington: I was impressed with the courage of their convictions and determination to affect change. Reminds me of the 60's - it will be the young people once again who will change the world. And it's all races joined together as one - Love that!

Patsy Thurin: I was feeling so nostalgic for our youth & definitely felt the 'torch passing' with great satisfaction that this new generation will do us proud. I saw a number of veterans cheering with us - surprised for some reason.

Cena Buchannon: Because of having to circulate, register voters, and answer Issue 1 questions, I didn't get to hear all the speakers, but I was very impressed with the first elementary teacher who talked about all she did for her students and how difficult it would be to do that and adequately carry or secure a gun. I also walked to the rally with another teacher (Dayton, special needs) I met on the way who shared the same feelings of how fascinated the kids are with guns and how the teachers have more than they can handle now. He said he would do anything to protect his students if confronted by a shooter, but he wanted no part of carrying a gun. I was also thrilled by the articulate students and so happy that they encouraged voting as the way to change things. I also saw city and county officials in the crowd but no state or national representatives.

Karen L.: It was exciting to be downtown and march there! What was upsetting was listening to a nine year-old boy from a school in Oakley speak to the crowd on the City Hall steps about what it was like when they recently experienced a lock down due to someone being in their school with a gun. He described in detail what they needed to do to block the door and then to spread out in a circle around the classroom so if the shooter started shooting it would be more difficult to shoot all of them than if they were all huddled together. Brought me to tears. Nine year-olds should not have to deal with these things.



NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS LWVUS

LWVUS Waives Fees for Students

Recent surveys indicated that the cost of League membership has proved to be an impediment for college and high school students to join the organization. Following a tradition of encouraging young people to become involved in the political process, LWVUS announced last week that they will waive all student fees until January 2021. They urge local and state Leagues to reduce their membership dues accordingly.



DANGEROUS DAMES OF DAYTON

The annual gathering at NCR Country Club never ceases to be enlightening and rewarding. 2018 was no exception.

The first recipient of the DDD award – **Deb Feldman** – is a transplant to Dayton from Washington, D.C. via Miami University. Her mother was a member of LWV, and a fierce and outspoken advocate for the voiceless. Deb was drawn to the public sector as a means to establish her career and to make a difference. She rose from a budget analyst to County Administrator, and smashed that glass ceiling as the first woman CEO of Children’s Hospital of Dayton. She cited Elsie Mead, a woman whose vision resulted in the founding of Dayton Children’s Hospital. Deb’s focus is a movement that is creating a “kids first” agenda. Because children have no voice and no vote, we adults must take on that responsibility. She cited a leadership forum called *Vote for Ohio’s Kids* which will convene on September 27th in Columbus which will address the critical health needs of children in our community. The group intends to invite all gubernatorial candidates to this forum with the intent of engaging them in a discussion and commitment to provide resources for children in all aspects of their lives.

Deb ended her remarks with a quote from Rabbi Hillel: “If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, who am I? If not now, when?”

The second recipient of the DDD award, **Lucinda Williams Adams**, a retired Dayton teacher and gold medal winner of the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy. She too expressed her commitment to children, “the pride of our future.” She grew up in segregated Savanna, GA where she attended only one school which had all the grades. But she listened and learned, and made herself work hard. She was a runner, and actually could outrun all the boys. But she said that even if you are an athlete, education is the most important accomplishment. Building relationships adds to one’s success and helped her to earn a scholarship to college. Her husband died when her daughter was ten years old. She spent the better part of her life as a single mother, a fine teacher, and a famous athlete.

Her final words were, “No one will remember clothes, cars, 401K, or what side of town you come from. They will remember that you touched them.”

She makes Dayton proud.

Vivienne Himmell



*The right of every American
to first-class citizenship is
the most important issue of our time.*

~ Jackie Robinson

I HEREBY DECLARE.....



For anyone who has not experienced a Naturalization ceremony at the Federal Court, I ask you to take the time, just once, to experience this moving testament to what it means to become a citizen of this country. We all take it for granted and forget how difficult and time-consuming it is to “jump through the hoops” to get to this memorable day.

And here is the oath, with right hand raised:

“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 laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I 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.”

This oath was taken in Dayton on March 12, 2018 by 50 people from 27 countries.

Our LWVGDA is one of ten community organizations who welcome the new citizens at least once per month. We present them with some LWV information and a voter registration form. And we tell them who we are and how we struggled and won the right to vote.

If you don't shed at least one little tear at the conclusion of the oath, you are not paying attention. If you wish to be a part of this ceremony, please call the office and Kathy Farmer will contact you to join her at the Federal courthouse.

Every one of these new citizens promised to vote.

Submitted by Vivienne Himmell



*“I don't want to be remembered
as the girl who was shot. I want to be
remembered as the girl who stood up.”*

Malala Yousafzai

THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE.....

ALL POLITICS ARE LOCAL



I did not have to submit an article last month and I was relieved. The issue that was gnawing at me, as well as many others, was the senseless death of 17 more people to gun violence. All in one place and all at one time, so quickly. I like to be a little light-hearted in these articles, but there is nothing light-hearted about this subject.

A single strand of light in all this was the galvanization of young people who took a position and tried to do something. The question is, how will this movement be sustained and how do we support the youth who have put the spotlight where it belongs? The NRA holds sway over (read: enriches the pockets of) so many politicians in Washington that it hardly seems to matter what we, their voting constituents think, want and know is right.

One way we can keep the momentum around this issue is to make it a local issue. You support these children by paying attention to your local representatives. Find out where they stand on sensible gun control legislation and make it clear that their position on this issue will influence your decision to vote for or against them. Attempts at passing state and local legislation will also be an uphill climb, but this will keep the conversation alive between the national debates on this subject that seem to fade so quickly. In November, Ohio will be electing many State and Local leaders as well as a new Governor. If this is an issue that haunts you, then before voting, visit the belly of the beast at the following website and make sure you know where candidates stand on this issue. The website will even allow you to *Create Your Personal Voting Reference Card*. That works both ways folks! <https://www.nrapvf.org/grades/Ohio/>

Your League of Women Voters has a position on Gun Control:

http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/impact_on_issues_2016-2018_social_policy.pdf

~ Susan Byerly, President LWVODA

Vote YES



Issue 1
on May 8

Creates a bipartisan, public process
for drawing congressional districts

Put an end to gerrymandering

DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Members may order one copy of the directory at the special price of \$3.00, including postage and handling. Additional copies are \$6.00 each up to 10 copies, with a reduced rate of \$5.00 each for orders over 10 copies.

Order online at: lwvdayton.org

OR

Make check payable to: **Dayton Area League of Women Voters Education**



Joyce Young Retires from Public Service

Congratulations to long-time League member Joyce Young on her recent retirement as a Washington Township Trustee. Joyce, who joined the League in 1984, served the township for 22 years. Now that's taking civic involvement seriously!

Best wishes for a great retirement!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE GREATER DAYTON AREA
Talbot Tower
127 N. Ludlow Street
Dayton, OH 45402-1703

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Advocating Voter Education and Action on Issues



Current Resident or:



Coretta Scott King

MAY

WOMEN'S HISTORY TRIVIA

~ excerpted from nwHP.org/events/may/



Victoria Woodhull

- **May 1, 1950** – Gwendolyn Brooks becomes the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, named Library of Congress’s Consultant in Poetry (later called Poet Laureate) in 1985
- **May 5, 1938** – Dr. Dorothy H. Andersen presents results of her medical research identifying the disease cystic fibrosis at a meeting of the American Pediatric Association
- **May 6 – 12 Nurses Week**
- **May 8, 1914** – President Woodrow Wilson signs a Proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day
- **May 10, 1872** – Victoria Woodhull is nominated as the first woman candidate for U.S. president for the Equal Rights Party
- **May 12, 1968** – A 12-block Mother’s Day march of “welfare mothers” is held in Washington, D.C., led by Coretta Scott King accompanied by Ethel Kennedy
- **May 21, 1932** – Amelia Earhart Putnam becomes the first woman to complete a solo-transatlantic flight by flying 2,026 miles from Newfoundland to Ireland in just under 15 hours
- **May 21, 1973** – Lynn Genesko, a swimmer, receives the first athletic scholarship awarded to a woman (University of Miami)
- **May 29, 1977** – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to qualify for and complete the Indy 500 car race
- **May 29, 1943** – “Rosie the Riveter” by Norman Rockwell appears on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*