



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area
 Talbott Tower, 127 N. Ludlow St, Dayton, Ohio 45402-1703

WEBSITE: lwvdayton.org EMAIL: league@lwvdayton.org PHONE: 937.228.4041
 FACEBOOK: Lwv Dayton OH

Join us on our ride to 100 years!

~NOVEMBER~



♦ Tuesday, November 7
Election Day



Have you signed the

FAIR DISTRICTS PETITION yet?

If not, call the League office @ 937.228.4041



DO  SH*#



If you have been in the office lately, most likely you have seen my new coffee mug. The last word has been changed to protect the faint of heart; I don't mean to offend. The mug was brought to my attention by my daughter, Ellyn. I'm the kind of mom who raised three girls to get the degree, have the career, travel where your heart leads, and I ruthlessly shot daggers at any guy who threatened their opportunities. I loved that she loved the mug. We both bought one. It is a daily inspiration.

Last night, at the Issue 2 forum we did in partnership with Sinclair & the Cox Media Group, I saw once again, our League do epic "stuff." Issue 2 is a contentious and confusing topic, extra security was ordered, and strict rules were to be enforced. Cox media was concerned, I wasn't; we do this all the time. We had a mix of new and old members as volunteers. They took their marching orders and the evening went as smooth as a well brewed cup of Starbucks. When it was over, as always, I am touched how many people thank us for our work. Our media partners asked to do more programs together. I said "sure." Maybe a gubernatorial primary forum? Thank you Diane Ashman, David Bodary, Pat Brechlin, Susan Byerly, Marlita Charles, Sharon Harmer, Kathie Havemann, Janet Hess, Laurel Kerr, Patsy Thurin, Val Lee, Kathleen Turner, Vicky Valerin, and Tonya Wilson-Wood. Epic Job!

The last several days I have had the opportunity to witness the 2017 *Voters Guide* hit the streets. It is a fact the community LOVES the *Guide*. People are waiting for it. If they can't find it, they come to get it for themselves... and their friends. It is our Claim to Fame. Our League came together this year with the funds to make it happen, an Epic Effort.

So what happens after November 7? A NEW monthly cable television show, Capitol Chat in January, *Where Have all the Voters Gone* forums (in partnership with the National Issues Forums Institute and the Kettering Foundation), Dangerous Dames 98th celebration in March, the Fair Districts=Fair Elections Redistricting Reform continues, our work with the Women's Therapy Court, DMHA...

I smile when people think all we do are elections. If I could, I'd buy those mugs in bulk and pass them out to remind us we are - one of the first and largest Leagues in the nation, who never shrug off an idea or challenge and have fun and good conversation doing it all. We make a difference; we Do Epic Sh*#!

~ Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director

Fair Districts Campaign Updates

The legislature has announced the formation of a working group on congressional redistricting, tasked with formulating a proposed constitutional amendment to put before voters next year, perhaps as early as the May primary. LWVO and the Fair Districts = Fair Elections coalition have always supported a legislative solution to gerrymandering, provided it includes key requirements for real reform.



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)

Dr. Ronald L. Fletcher and Dona C. Fletcher
Premier Health
Miami Valley Hospital
Good Samaritan Hospital
Atrium Medical Center
Upper Valley Medical Center

SENATE (\$500 - \$999)

Barbara Buddendeck**
Dayton Metro Library
Kendall Printing*
Carlotta King
Paul Lamberger
Leppla Associates, Ltd
Sandra McHugh and Jerry Sutton
Michael R. Merz
Sinclair Community College
University of Dayton
President's Office
Fitz Center, Leadership in Community

HOUSE (\$250 - \$499)

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

Anonymous
Charles D. Berry
Peggy Berry
David & Susan Bodary
Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
Crossman & Maciorowski, LLC
DATV*
Dayton Bar Association Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald L. Fletcher
Sharon Harmer
Houser Asphalt & Concrete
Kendall Printing*
Paul Lamberger
Paula MacIlwaine-Women Making A Difference
Earl McDaniel
Pat & Jackie McGohan
Scott & Laurie McGohan
Phil Plummer, Montgomery County Sheriff
Preferred Planning Associates,
(Becky & James Kirkland)
Marian Simmons Estate Bequest
MVCC*
Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, LLP
Sinclair Community College
Tom & Judy Thompson
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation
Bob & 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

Joy Artman, Willis E. Blackshear-Montgomery County Recorder, Dayton Metro Library, Marni Flagel, Joan S. Gallagher, Michelle Groder—in Memory of Rita Platt, Janet M. Hess, Karl L. Keith-Montgomery County Auditor, Mario, Rhine McLin, Jeffrey J. Mims, Jr.-Dayton City Commissioner, Sharen & David Neuhardt, Thomas S. Norwalk, Tim and Teri O'Connell, Preferred Planning Associates-Becky & James Kirkland, Phil Plummer-Montgomery County Sheriff, Margaret M. Quinn, Joanne Rau, Sinclair Community College, Esther Wright

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

Anonymous, David & Susan Bodary, Susan Byerly, Louisa & Phillip Dreety, Susan & John Hesselgesser, Leppla Associates Ltd., Paula MacIlwaine-Women Making A Difference, Pat & Jackie McGohan, Rebecca Morgan, Preferred Planning Associates—James & Becky Kirkland, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, Carolyn Rice, Robert & Katherine Stealey, Judy Thompson, Penny Wolff, Joyce Young

* In-kind contribution

** In-kind contribution + monetary contribution



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).

Our Political Democracy: Can We Bridge the Partisan Divide?

The University of Dayton Life Long Learning classes have reconvened and our League is moderating this class. The class description sparked a lot of interest generating a lengthy wait list, so that has prompted me to attempt to provide summaries of at least some of the class sessions. We opened covering the topic of economics, inviting two economists – Dr. Richard Stock and Dr. J. Robert Baker. Dr. Stock received his academic training in urban economics, earning a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. Dr. J. Robert Baker is a professor of political science at Wittenberg University. Other presenters included Phillip E. Cole, the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) and William DeFries, the CEO and owner of Copp Integrated Systems. He currently serves as the leader of the Business and Economic Coalition for the Montgomery County Republican Party along with being the owner of Beef O’Brady’s restaurant in Beavercreek. Here are some highlights from what each presenter shared with our class:



Dr. Baker:

US Senators tend to be more responsive to top income earners who vote. That creates a barrier for the democracy to flourish. Rural constituencies often vote against their own best interests. Not everyone can be college bound. There is a need to match skills with education. Higher marginal tax rates decreased income inequality.

Recommended Books:

Politics of Resentment; Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker by Kathryn Cramer

Who Stole the American Dream by Hedrick Smith

Unequal Democracy by Larry Bartels

American Amnesia: How the war on government led us to forget what made America prosper by Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson

Capital in the 21st Century by Thomas Piketty

Fenced Off: The Suburbanization of American Politics by Juliet Gainsborough

Dr. Stock

Dr. Stock spoke about the increase in debt loads, i.e. credit card debt, mortgage debt, student loans, etc. Savings rates have shown an unequal distribution between high earners and low income citizens. The differential has risen over the past 30 years. One of the key factors contributing to income inequality has been changes in the tax rate. There has been a dramatic reduction in the tax rate for earners at the top of the income scale. He went on to identify three primary factors that have contributed to income inequality: Tax rates, education, and racial segregation. There have been institutional barriers between educational institutions and the business world. Dr. Stock also provided a very interesting tracing of migration patterns of African Americans and how the migration patterns identified economic successes or failures.

William DeFries

Mr. DeFries was able to draw from his experiences as a small business owner to demonstrate obstacles to attaining economic success given excessive taxation and a bloated bureaucracy. He pointed out the advantages of a free market economy for business growth and pointed to business coalitions such as the one he heads as advantageous to business entrepreneurs. He strongly recommended supporting local businesses, volunteering with a local charity, and patronizing local restaurants.

Phil Cole

Attny Cole identified two types of poverty: chronic (when you are poor every month for three years) and episodic (poor for 2 consecutive months). The latter tends to surface more frequently in suburban communities. Chronic poverty tends to be generational. Parallels were drawn between poverty and the opioid crisis. Education was viewed as key to getting out of poverty. In Ohio, many positions go unfilled due to the lack of skilled workers. He viewed massive tax cuts as creating a downturn with respect to government services.

OACAA publishes a state of poverty report, a copy of which was provided for our members. One entry about families in poverty gave a breakdown about the number of hours per week a single parent with two children must work to reach self-sufficiency at minimum wage. The mathematical calculation was made and it was determined only three hours were left in the week for everything else such as grocery shopping, spending quality time with the children, doing laundry, paying bills, etc. After studying this breakdown, one reaches the realization that, perhaps, voting would not be a task people in poverty would prioritize.

Summary provided by Valerie Lee, Action Chair



OHIO LEAGUE NEWS

LWVO_{OHIO}

State Legislature News

The Ohio General Assembly is back in session, so the LWVO advocacy team is back at work monitoring and advocating on legislation. Here are a few bills and issues to keep an eye on in the next few months:

Energy and the environment

- SB 184 and SB 188, to decrease the distance required between a wind turbine and a neighboring property line and allow wind farms in more locations; both have had their first hearing in committee.
- HB 239, which would provide a ratepayer-funded bailout of two unsuccessful coal plants; this bill stalled in committee at the beginning of the summer but was recently brought up for another hearing.
- Rumors have circulated for months about the legislature trying again to weaken or dismantle Ohio's renewable energy standards, an effort that narrowly failed in December 2016. There is no clear indication of what a proposal could look like in final form, though a bill to this effect passed the House in March.

Reproductive rights

- SB 145, also known as the "method ban," to prohibit the abortion procedure that is the most common after twelve weeks' gestation, has been assigned to committee in the House after passing the Senate in June.
- SB 164 and HB 214, which would ban abortion on the basis of a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome, appear to be moving, both having had multiple hearings. However, a federal judge recently struck down a similar measure in Indiana.

Guns

- SB 180, commonly known as "stand-your-ground," would eliminate the requirement to retreat before using force in self-defense. Both this bill and HB 228, its companion in the House, have had a committee hearing.
- HB 142 would eliminate the requirement that a person stopped by law enforcement notify the officer if they are carrying a concealed handgun. It has had six hearings in committee, but has encountered opposition from law enforcement and firearm advocacy groups.
- HB 201 would establish "permitless carry," allowing all adults 21 or over to carry a concealed firearm unless prohibited by federal law. While its last committee hearing was in July, this is a bill we will be watching along with its Senate companion, SB 142.

Veto overrides

The legislature has voted to overturn 6 of Governor Kasich's 43 budget line-item vetoes already and have repeatedly stressed that number could rise, as overrides can technically take place anytime during the two-year session of the General Assembly which ends December 31, 2018.

- A provision allowing for oil & gas activity in state and local parks was among overrides passed by the House in July. The Senate opted not to take up the issue with their overrides in August, but could do so at any time.
- Recent reporting indicates House leadership may be counting votes on an override of the Medicaid freeze. This issue is also affected by federal attempts to repeal significant parts of the Affordable Care Act including its expansion of Medicaid coverage.

Capital punishment

- SB 40 and HB 81, which would ban the death penalty in circumstances where the individual was experiencing serious mental illness, have each had 3 committee hearings. A similar bill has passed the Senate in previous sessions but encountered resistance in the House.
- SB 94 to abolish the death penalty had its first committee hearing in September.

Elections

- The legislature held a first hearing on a bill to provide funding to help counties replace aging voting machines. The bill, SB 135, proposes a split in which the state pays 80% of the cost and the county pays 20% of the cost to replace machines.

The legislature is also considering a bill, SB 21, that proposes to reduce the number of poll workers required per precinct. During a committee hearing, questions were also raised about the number of voting machines required per precinct. LWVO is monitoring this closely, as allocation of poll workers and voting machines was a key component of our legal settlement in the *LWVO v. Blackwell (later Brunner)* case.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY – 2017

Tuesday, September 26 was National Voter Registration Day. Since 2012, over 1.4 million people have registered to vote or updated their registration as part of National Voter Registration Day, celebrated annually on the 4th Tuesday in September. League of Women Voters Dayton recognized the importance of our members being visible and taking action to promote our number one purpose.... exercising our right to vote. We had several teams at different locations throughout the community registering voters and getting signatures on the redistricting petition. Kudos to all who were willing to take time out of their busy schedules to represent the League and perform this community service.

Team Drew Health Clinic:

Mario Gallin; Kathy Farmer; Yvonne Curington

Team East Dayton Health Clinic

Kathleen Turner; Mary Sue Gmeiner; Sharon Smith

Team Northwest Library

Paula Ewers; Dianne Herman; Jo Lovelace-Hill; Deloris Robinson

Team Main Library

Viv Himmell; Sharon Harmer; Cena Buchanon

Team League Office

Lillian and John Moskeland



Here are some of the memorable moments shared by our team members in the field:

A man with limited English skills took a voter registration form. He said he is a citizen and planned to get his son to help him.

Those with some familiarity with gerrymandering were anxious to sign the petition; most of the people approached had no idea what gerrymandering is.

Many expressed thanks to the League for being out in the community registering voters.

There was a group of immigrants touring the main library. When asked if any were citizens, one replied in the affirmative. Sadly, that one citizen was not interested in registering to vote.

I found many of the young people of voting age declined the invitation to get registered justifying their behavior by saying their vote would not count.

Many thanks to the staff and administrators at the health clinics and libraries for allowing us to use their locations for National Voter Registration Day.

~ Valerie Lee, Action Chair



Elizabeth Cochran



NOVEMBER HISTORY TRIVIA



Mary McLeod Bethune

- **November 1, 1848** – First medical school for women, the New England Female Medical School, opens. In 1874 it merges with Boston University to become one of the world's first co-ed medical schools
- **November 8, 1910** – The state of Washington passes a constitutional amendment to guarantee woman suffrage
- **November 8, 1984** – Dr. Anna L. Fisher, a physician on the shuttle Discovery, becomes the first American mother and third American woman to fly into space
- **November 11, 1979** – Bethune Museum and Archives opens in Washington, D.C., as a center for African-American women's history, honoring Mary McLeod Bethune
- **November 11, 1993** – The Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C., after being conceived by former army combat nurse Diane Carlson Evans and sculpted by Glenna Goodacre to honor the 265,000 women who voluntarily served during the Vietnam era
- **November 14, 1889** – Journalist Elizabeth Cochran, aka Nellie Bly, sails around the world in 72 days, 6 hours, 11 minutes, and 14 seconds, beating the fictional record set by Phineas Fogg in Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days

~ excerpted from nwvp.org/events/november/ (National Women's History Project website)



Some History of Her-Story

The editors of this newsletter recently received the following email from long-time member, Viv Himmell:

*Sandy Neargarder and I were in the office on Saturday, trying to sort out the many pictures that were in a bag and needed to be identified. In the process, we came across a gem. It is a program from **April 1, 1945** commemorating the 25th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Dayton and Montgomery County.*

In this program is a two-page history of the League and what their current focus was. Both Sandy and I were entranced. Some of the struggles were the very same that we see today. Sandy suggested that we reprint this in one of our Voters with the thought that our present-day members would be as enamored of this piece of history as we are -- especially as we march toward the 100th!

We agree, Viv and Sandy. Following is a slightly edited copy of that 25th anniversary League history from 1945.

In celebration of the victory of Woman Suffrage, a Grand Jubilee was held in Chicago in 1920. At that time, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt pointed out that the attainment of the goal of Woman Suffrage opened up the new field of the political education of women. At the Chicago convention, the League of Women Voters was organized for five years, because it was felt that the job of education would be complete at that time. However, the members of the League soon realized that their purpose to create an informed electorate was a permanent need, and the Certification of Incorporation of the LWV, written in 1923, read that "the term of existence of this corporation shall be perpetual."

In order to gain experience in government through active participation, the LWV endorsed the Sheppard-Towner bill for the public protection of maternity and infancy. Little did the newborn League expect the storm of criticism which broke over its head due to its support of this seemingly non-controversial bill. The members were called communists, socialists, and were accused of trying to abolish the American family.

By the time the bill finally became law, the League had learned a great deal about the field of government. Some of the other national issues which the League supported were: The Child Labor Amendment, Food and Drug legislation, the Merit System for government employees, the Lame Duck Amendment, Reciprocal Trade agreements, and Lend-Lease...

The Dayton League of Women Voters was organized in May of 1920 by Mrs. N. M. Stanley. At first, only a few of the many women active in the Suffrage Movement realized that the attainment of the right to vote required an educational program on the effective use of their vote. But through the pioneering efforts of its first members, the League grew by leaps and bounds.

One of the first issues members worked on was a non-partisan school board. ...Since then the Dayton League has worked actively for the extension of the merit system in civil service, the five-day marriage law, use of voting machines, and other measures to increase the efficiency of local government. The League has continued and increased its activities, constantly working for constructive legislation and for increased participation of citizens in government.

We are still working toward the objectives established in 1920. The democratic form of government makes the following demands on its citizens.

Continued on page 7.....

.....*Continued from page 6*

We Must Be Informed Members of the LWV receive information regularly from local, state, and national publications, Membership groups have studied the revision of the Ohio Children's Code, Economics and Social Security, and various phases of Foreign Policy...

We Must Build an Informed Public Opinion One of the ways in which the League seeks to do this is in maintaining a Speakers Bureau, which is used by clubs, church groups, men's and women's organizations, veterans' auxiliaries, PTAs, and many other civic groups.

We distributed thousands of pieces of free information in the form of fliers, digests of laws, analysis of issues, and research reports.

Before primary and November elections, we used all of the above methods to promote a large and intelligent vote. In addition, we distributed non-partisan information on all candidates to thousands of Montgomery County voters including all newly naturalized citizens. Two series of radio dramatizations portrayed the importance of women's votes....

We Must Act on Our Information An informed responsible citizen exercises his right to vote and then maintains close contact with the elected representatives. We know our public officials, write to them, consult with them on matters of government, and transmit to them the results of our studies of legislation affecting public interest.

The League of Women Voters effectively demonstrates its belief in the statement :

An Informed Citizen is a Good Citizen.

Citizen Science Opportunities

The Citizen Science done by League of Women Voters member Carol Graff of Beaver Creek was the opening topic of a recent talk on Climate Change and Sustainable Solutions given by Dr. Bob Brecha of the University of Dayton's Hanley Institute of Sustainability. League members attended the talk as guests of the Dayton Garden Club.



What's
Phenology?

Dr. Brecha defined Phenology as "when stuff happens," and told the group about Carol Graff's hobby of recording the first blossoming date of local flowers over the course of summer growing seasons. Carol kept these records for decades, and they came to the attention of UD's Bro. Don Geiger. He recommended that a student graph Carol's data and compare it to graphs of winter temperature patterns for those years. The data showed a pattern of warmer winters and earlier plant flowering dates over time; some were as much a 6-7 days earlier. The spring species showed the most change. Carol's data resulted in an article in a scientific journal.

Dr. Brecha then pointed out that ecosystems adapt slowly to change, so animals whose migration and mating patterns depend on the availability of food from plants have a hard time adapting to these rising temperatures, which are happening worldwide. He also pointed out that 80% of the world's greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane, have been burned since 1960, the year he was born.

Dr. Brecha lives in an energy-efficient straw-bale house in Yellow Springs, drives an electric vehicle, and has solar panels on his house. He recommends that we all try to find similar renewable resources to cut down on the use of fossil fuels as a way to fight climate change. Citizen Science for all of us!

Submitted by Kathleen Turner, Natural Resources Co-Director

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DAYTON, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 105

Advocating Voter Education and Action on Issues

Current Resident or:



THE PRESIDENT'S VOICE.....

Why I love the National Anthem

I admit, I am one of those people who used to think we could have picked a better song for our National Anthem. Maybe *America the Beautiful* or *This Land is our Land*. Face it, our National Anthem is hard to sing if you don't have a voice that can hit an octave and a half. For some reason, the lyrics didn't resonate with me either, though I knew them. Maybe it was the O'er. Two things impacted the way I feel about this song. I read a book (addiction to historical fiction) that took place during the War of 1812 and included the story of Francis Scott Key during the battle that inspired the anthem. Not much later, I was at a conference in a large hotel and I heard the strands of the Anthem. An incredibly beautiful and powerful voice began singing. It stopped me in my steps. I wasn't the only one. The combination of this woman's voice and my recent reading, made me experience the anthem in a new way. Now, when I hear the anthem, it unfurls for me, like a story with images of our history, good and bad, in my mind.

When I am at an event and the anthem is played, I stand and (mostly) listen. I do this because I choose to. Because the song has some meaning to me. If I stand during the anthem because it is obligatory, will the meaning remain?

I am not sure which I find more dismaying: that we live in a country where some think patriotism can be dictated at the threat of one's livelihood or that we live in a country where we are looking to sports figures for leadership.

Your League has a position supporting Individual Liberties.

~ Susan Byerly, President LWVGD

