



# THE VOTER

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

WEBSITE: [lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org) | EMAIL: [league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org) | PHONE: 937.228.4041 | FACEBOOK: LWV Dayton OH



## #DaytonStrong

Like every parent in our community, when I heard the news about the shooting in Dayton's Oregon District, I did a mental checklist of my "children." Though they're all adults, they do party downtown on their girls' nights. In my heart I felt they were all okay, but the rock in the pit of my stomach didn't go away until I heard their voices. It was then I let myself ache for our community; within minutes I started to think about what the League could do to help.

Gun control is not only a voter issue, it is one of the League's advocacy positions—and advocacy is one of the things we do best, especially at state and national levels. As members, you are all encouraged and welcome to be part of this advocacy. Included in this issue, League President Andy Cobb has an article explaining the League's policy on guns, as well as information on how to contact elected representatives; **Representatives** being the operative word. They do need to hear from their constituents. Years of experience working with our officials has taught me that when voters call or write letters, it **does** catch their attention.

Two days after the shooting, in partnership with DATV, our League taped a brief statement on gun control. You can find it on our website, [lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org), and

Facebook page, **LWVGDA**. Your action item? "like" our page and share it on Facebook.

Through our relationship with the National Issues Forums Institute (NIFI), we will arrange forums for citizens to discuss the gun issue. We will keep you up to date on dates and times; please plan to attend and bring your friends.

Finally, we have offered our services to the

Montgomery County Commissioners and Dayton Commission to assist with any programs or events they plan in the months ahead. We look forward to helping them with community outreach.

We can't change what happened in Dayton on August 4, but we can try to ensure it doesn't happen again. On my personal Facebook page, I was surprised by the number of people who commented

that nothing will change. This I know for sure: nothing will change if we do nothing. I can think of no better way to remember the neighbors we lost in 30 seconds on a balmy Saturday night, then to advocate on their behalf so their lives and their sacrifice will have made a difference.

~Susan Hesselgesser,  
Executive Director, LWVGDA



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Women's History Project Greene County

\*In-kind contribution

\*\*In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

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Robyn Angel, Dale Berry, Linda Blum,  
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Judy Dodge, Jeffrey Froelich,  
Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, Ina Green,  
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Susan Barde, Pat Bradley-Falke, Susan Darcy,  
Louisa & Philip Dreety, Bill Gerhard in memory of Judy,  
Paul Gruner, Rebeca Jarvi, Dana Kane, Carolyn Rice,  
Kim & Bruce Senft-Paras.

*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.*



## ***Be a Partner in Democracy***

The Board of Elections has asked the League of Women Voters to participate in their Partners in Democracy program to provide skilled workers at each polling location. Precinct Election Officials are being recruited to help conduct fair, transparent, and accurate elections on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

Our League will provide t-shirts or buttons with the League logo for all members who agree to participate. To qualify you must:

- ⇒ be a registered voter in Montgomery or Greene County.
- ⇒ have a vehicle on Election Day.
- ⇒ attend a training class, and work on Election Day from 5:45 am until released by polling location supervisor.
- ⇒ not have a felony conviction.
- ⇒ be able to lift 25 pounds.

This is a paid position. Participants will receive \$25 for the training class and \$105 for Election Day.

For an application, call the League office at **937.228.4041**, or contact the Board of Elections directly:

**Robyn Fecke: 937.225.5673, fecker@mcoho.org**

**Ted Brown: 937.225.5671, brownt@mcoho.org**



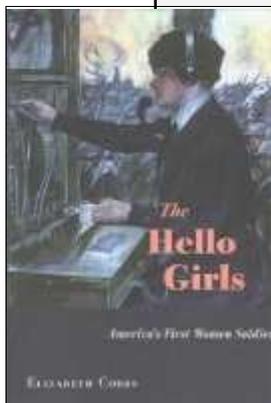
## **Get Tickets Now for 100th Anniversary Event**

The League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton's 100th anniversary Dangerous Dames of Dayton event will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2020** at the Dayton Art Institute, and it will be the party of the century!

Susan Page, an award-winning American journalist and Washington Bureau chief for *USA Today* is our guest speaker. Susan is a fan of the League of Women Voters and is thrilled to come to Dayton to participate in Dangerous Dames of Dayton and our centennial celebration. Susan's new book about Barbara Bush, *The Matriarch*, can be purchased through the League office for \$20. All books will be autographed at the Dangerous Dames event.

Assemble your own group of "dangerous dames" and purchase your tickets early at [www.lwvdayton.org](http://www.lwvdayton.org), or by contacting LWVGDA office at **937.228.4041**, or email [league@lwvdayton.org](mailto:league@lwvdayton.org). Price: \$100 for 100 years.

## Celebrating Women in Books



The next event in the Dayton League's reading series is at Basil's on Market, 312 N. Patterson Blvd. in Dayton on **Tuesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm**. We will be discussing *The Hello Girls: America's First Women Soldiers*, by Elizabeth Cobbs. This is the story of how America's first women soldiers helped win World War I, earned the vote, and fought in the U.S. Army in 1918. The U.S. Army Signal Corps sent 223 women to France. They were the masters of the latest technology—the telephone switchboard. They were responsible for connecting telephone lines and dispatching messages between units and command posts.

RSVP by Friday, November 8, to D.J. Shade at [wendellshade@gmail.com](mailto:wendellshade@gmail.com), in order to give the restaurant a head count.

Women Army Signal Corps switchboard operators



## Interested in reading more about women's history?

Val Lee shares the following book list she received at the July opening of the Dayton Metro Library quilt exhibit, "Suffragists: And They Persisted!"

*Word, Like Fire: Maria Stewart, the Bible, and the Rights of African Americans*, by Valerie C. Cooper

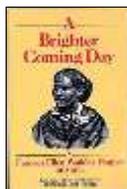
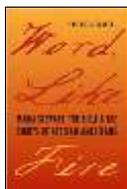
*A Brighter Coming Day: A Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Reader Paperback*, by Frances Smith Foster

*Lucretia Mott's Heresy: Abolition and Women's Rights in Nineteenth-Century America*, by Carol Faulkner

*Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles*, by Mara Rockliff

*Gertrude Weil: Jewish Progressive in the New South*, by Leonard Rogoff

[Source: Carroll Schleppi, Miami Valley Art Quilt Network]



## Media and Democracy: Common Cause of Ohio Informs

***“Local news should truly be local—not dictated by vulture capitalists who care more about profits than robust journalism.”***

Apollo Global Management is attempting to take over Cox Enterprises and Northwest Broadcasting. This dangerous merger would give Apollo control of 25 television stations—placing a HUGE amount of media ownership in the hands of one private equity firm.

That was the message put out by Common Cause of Ohio to attract an audience for a dynamic panel of speakers to address this issue. The panel included the following:

- Bob Daley, political reporter and former Washington correspondent for the *Journal Herald*
- Jim DeBrosse, retired assistant professor of journalism and veteran newspaper reporter
- Yosef Getachew, director of Media & Democracy program for Common Cause
- Joel Pruce, assistant professor of human rights studies Political Science department at UD
- Tom Roberts, Ohio conference NAACP president
- Kevin Smith, executive director Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism at Ohio University
- Catherine Turcer, executive director Common Cause of Ohio
- Nan Whaley, mayor of Dayton

Apollo Global Management has put into operation a strategy to become one of the largest owners of local television stations nationwide, in a bid to perhaps rival Sinclair Broadcast Group and Fox Television. Speaking for the Dayton community, Mayor Nan Whaley affirmed the value of local journalism, underscoring one of the three pillars the FCC identified that should govern the media landscape: localism, diversity, and competition. Alternatives to daily newspapers were discussed, e.g. bloggers, nonprofit investigative journalism, and digital editions. The absence of a predictable revenue stream was cited as a major drawback to those alternatives. Print media has suffered a death by a thousand cuts evidenced by a shift in ads from print and radio to the internet. Facebook and Google, in particular, were cited as reasons for declining revenue streams for print media.

Contact Common Cause Ohio to participate in the action agenda to stop the merger.

Go to <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-the-apollo-cox-merger/>

**~Valerie Lee, Action Chair**

# Your voice can DO SOMETHING About Gun Violence

~ Andrea Cobb, President

Our Dayton community has felt deep sadness in the aftermath of the mass shooting in the Oregon District on August 4. We are neighbors; we are friends. We all share in the loss. While we are deeply saddened, we are also spurred to action. As we heard the crowd implore Governor DeWine at the community vigil held later that day, we need to “Do Something!” The Dayton League of Women Voters stands ready with information on how you can make a difference in your community.

The League of Women Voters has a long-standing position in support of Gun Control. Since 1990 we have used this position to lobby in support of the assault weapons ban and legislation requiring all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows. We are in opposition to laws that grant special protection to the gun industry.

Most citizens, regardless of political party, believe gun control is a matter of public safety and public health. In fact, Congress recently came together to pass legislation to ban “bump stocks,” attachments that allow semiautomatic weapons to be modified to mimic assault weapons. There are several policy proposals that draw bipartisan support from Republicans and Democrats. The most recent bipartisan bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives supports background checks and Red Flag Laws to allow family members or law enforcement to limit a person’s access to firearms if they are deemed a potential threat to the public. It is now in the Senate, awaiting action.

Legislation concerning the

manufacture and sale to civilians of assault-style weapons and certain “large capacity” ammunition for guns has lingered in the Senate since 2004. It is up to us, as citizens, to let our elected officials know how we feel about gun laws in our country.

There has been a lot of discussion about gun safety in our community as a result of the shooting. Within days, Governor DeWine spoke about changes to gun laws in Ohio and made proposals for gun control measures, such as safety protection orders and background checks for all Ohio gun purchases. We welcome those changes for our state and our community and urge the Ohio Legislature to move these proposals forward.

People think that contacting their local representatives does not matter. League members know this is not the case. This year, we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. Women, and men, came together to make a change. **It can be done.**

We urge you to contact your elected representatives. When you contact your elected representatives remember to do the following:

- State who you are and what issue you are calling (or writing) to address
- Be respectful and concise in your comments
- Be sure to leave contact information so your representative can follow up with you

See the sidebar for contact information for your state and national representatives. Voice your opinion!

And remember, your vote is also your voice. Vote on election day, November 5, 2019.

## EXECUTIVE

President Donald J. Trump  
202.456.1414 or the comments line at 202.456.1111

[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

## VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Pence see above

## U.S. SENATE

Sherrod Brown (D)  
513.684.1021 or 202.224.2315  
toll free 888.896.6446

[www.brown.senate.gov](http://www.brown.senate.gov)

Robert Portman (R)  
513.684.3265 or 202.224.3353  
toll free 800.205.6446

[www.portman.senate.gov/public](http://www.portman.senate.gov/public)

## U.S. HOUSE

Mike Turner (R -10th District)  
937.225.2843 or 202.225.6465

[www.turner.house.gov](http://www.turner.house.gov)

## OHIO SENATE MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Stephen Huffman (R-5th District)  
614.466.6247

[SD05@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:SD05@ohiosenate.gov)

Peggy Lehner (R-6th District)  
614.466.4538

[SD06@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:SD06@ohiosenate.gov)

## OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fred Strahorn (D-39th District)  
614.466.1607

[rep39@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep39@ohiohouse.gov)

Phil Plummer (R-40th District)  
614.644.8051

[rep40@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep40@ohiohouse.gov)

James Butler (R-41st District)  
614.644.6008

[rep41@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep41@ohiohouse.gov)

Niraj Antani (R-42nd District)  
614.466.6504

[rep42@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep42@ohiohouse.gov)

J. Todd Smith (R-43rd District)  
614.466.2960

[rep43@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep43@ohiohouse.gov)

## OHIO SENATE GREENE COUNTY

Bob Hackett (R-10th District)  
614.466.3780

[hackett@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:hackett@ohiosenate.gov)

## OHIO HOUSE

Rick Perales (R-73rd District)  
800.282.0253

[rep73@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep73@ohiohouse.gov)

Bill Dean (R-74th District)  
800.282.0253

[rep74@ohiohouse.gov](mailto:rep74@ohiohouse.gov)

## VOLUNTEER VOICES



Are you at a loss for how to respond in the wake of tragedy? After time to reflect and absorb what's happened, I find hope in taking action. Working for what I want keeps despair at bay and helps me feel empowered. I know I'm not alone.

If you are looking for a way to make a positive difference in our country and community, Jo Lovelace Hill and Dianne Herman have opportunities for you! No matter your political affiliation, **VOTING** and **EDUCATION** are vehicles for empowerment and change.

Jo is our newly-elected Vice President of Voter Services, and she needs your help registering voters. Opportunities to register voters on college campuses and at fall festivals are filling the calendar, with many volunteers needed to cover the bases.

Dianne is Chair of the Speakers Bureau. She has canned presentations available for the most-requested topics, "How Women Won the Right to Vote" and "What is the League of Women Voters?" She fields six to eight requests per month during election season, so she has a pressing need for additional presenters. Most groups are fairly informal and printed handouts are used—no technical equipment or experience required! All training will be provided.

Not sure if this is for you? You are invited to tag along and observe. Check it out, then plug in to hope and empowerment by volunteering with your Greater Dayton LWV! Contact Volunteer Coordinator Laurel Kerr at [Laurel.Kerr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Laurel.Kerr@sbcglobal.net) or **937.409.0536**.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Linda Harrison  
4567 Soldiers Home Miamisburg Road  
Miamisburg, OH 45342  
[lindaharrison2427@att.net](mailto:lindaharrison2427@att.net)

Bonnie Bertelson  
14172 Old Dayton Road  
New Lebanon, OH 45345  
[bjbertelson@gmail.com](mailto:bjbertelson@gmail.com)

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:



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I've enclosed my tax deductible gift of:

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**You may also donate online at [lwvdayton.org](http://lwvdayton.org); click DONATE and Make a Donation**  
**You do not have to have a PayPal account to donate online**