



August 2020

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THE VOTER

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

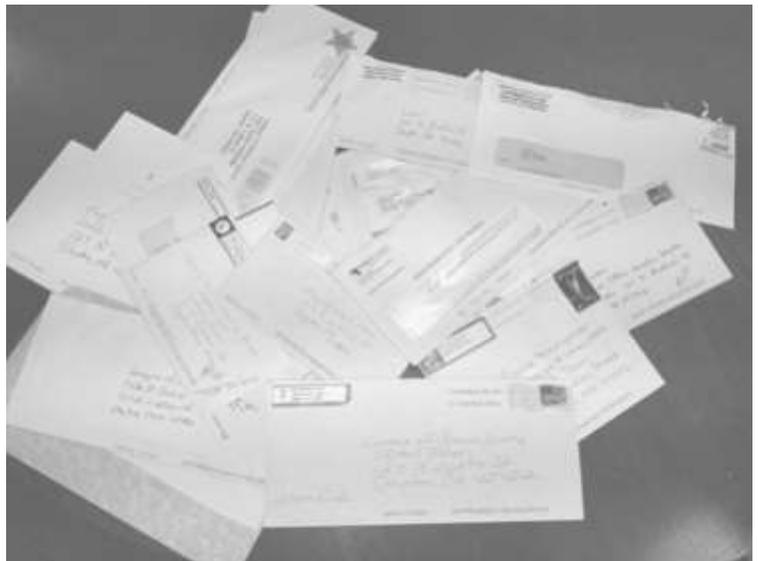
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1920 - 2020

Thank you 2020 Voters Guide Donors!

After a week-long, not very restful vacation, I dropped into the chair across from our office manager, Bobbie Beach, to get caught up on what I had missed. We discussed the upcoming election and other events, and the way COVID-19 makes everything discussed more daunting. Having taken it all in, I started to walk back to my office. Bobbie stopped me with the words, “Just wait till you see what’s on your desk.” A sense of dread about what I had forgotten or did not think of before I left enveloped my mind. Imagine my surprise and awe when I found my desk covered in a sweep of envelopes from members and other supporters, filled with donations for the *Voters Guide*!



Writing those letters for *Guide* donations was my last duty before vacation. It was a hard letter to write because of, well, COVID-19. Everyone, and certainly every nonprofit, has needs right now. But 2020 is a big election and the virus has left those running for office with few platforms to reach the voting public, making the *Voters Guide* more important this year than ever. I must tell you; it was not only the generosity of our League, but the kind and thoughtful notes tucked alongside those donations that—after a few tears—made me eager to get back to work.

Thanks to all of you who donated and to those who continue to send donations. You are simply the best! And, for those of you who may still wish to, it is not too late to donate. **\$100 puts 1,000 Guides into the hands of voters** and gets your name in the 2020 *Voters Guide*. You can go online, lwvdayton.org or mail a check to the League office at 127 North Ludlow, Dayton, OH 45402. As always, donations of any size are both appreciated and tax deductible.

~Susan Hesselgesser, Executive Director, LWVGDA



Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

MAJOR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

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

Jo Columbro Bequest
Talbot Tower Management*

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Lee & Pat Bradley-Falke
Barbara Buddendeck
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Sandra Neargarder
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Sinclair College
University of Dayton
President's Office
Fitz Center, Leadership in Community
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Lee & Ruth Snyder
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Judy & Tom Thompson
Pat Torvik
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Education Fund - a 501(c)(3) entity

CURRENT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Judy Gerhard
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Dr. Margaret Dunn
The Virginia W. Kettering
Foundation
Penny Wolff
Women's History Project
Greene County

*In-kind contribution

**In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

General Fund—a 501(c)(4)entity

Rosalie Bonacci-Roberts, Barbara Buddendeck, Susan Byerly,
Kathleen Farmer, Janis James, Janine Kinnison, Paul Lamberger,
Sandy McHugh & Jerry Sutton, Sandy Neargarder,
Sheriff Rob Streck, Judy & Tom Thompson, Penny Wolff

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)entity

David Bodary, Bill Gerhard (in memory of Judy),
Dr. Paul J. Nugent, Jr., Kaye Stealey, The Charles D. Berry Fund,
The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation



From the President's Desk

Thank you very much to the 80 members who sent in their annual meeting ballots in May and June! It was truly a record turnout. All items on the ballot passed, most unanimously. While we have several returning Board members, we are pleased to welcome Michelle Arostegui in the position of Secretary.

Your votes also approved the proposed bylaws change which will allow us to call an additional membership meeting if necessary to change our bylaws (outside of the annual meeting). The League Fund budget for 2020-21 was approved by membership, and the Education Fund budget was approved to be sent to the Education Fund trustees, who met at the end of June and approved their budget.

Your 2020-21 Board of Directors will be meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future. While we are not meeting in person, we continue to do the good work of the League of Women Voters.

- Our League partnered with PBS Think TV with a virtual screening and panel discussion of *The Vote*, a four hour documentary in two episodes from PBS American Experience. League members Val Lee and Dianne Herman represented our League fabulously, discussing the suffrage movement. If you missed the opportunity to see the event, it is available to stream on the Think TV website, **ThinkTV.org**.
- We welcomed two new interns, Emma Klemmensen and Paige Wright, to advance voter registration and education to youth in our area through social media. These interns are working with our Community Relations team.
- Several of our Board members represented the Dayton League at the first ever virtual LWVUS national convention. I was impressed by the many congratulatory videos from VIPs and members of Congress and the inspiring keynote address from CBS News anchor Norah O'Donnell. I encourage you to visit **LWV.org** to see the highlights from our convention.
- The Community Relations team has begun a "Stand with League" campaign on our social media, where we are reaching out to our members, friends, and community to ask for monetary support for the Education Fund. If you haven't seen one of the videos yet, I encourage you to visit our Facebook page: Please view and share!
- We held our first virtual New Member Welcome via Zoom at the end of June and plan to hold our first virtual Funding & Development event in August (see related article on page 6).

No one truly knows how long this pandemic will last or how much our daily lives will change over the coming months, but the League will find a way to press forward and get the job done! Stay safe, stay healthy, and wear your masks!

In League, Andy Cobb

2020-21 LWV Greater Dayton Area Board of Directors

President	Andrea Cobb	Cable & TV Tapings	Jo Lovelace Hill
President-Elect	Mario	Candidate Forum	
VP Community Relations	Peggy Berry	Coordinator	Jo Lovelace Hill
VP Program	David Bodary	<i>Directory of Public Officials</i>	Lucy Anne McKosky
VP Voter Service	Jo Lovelace Hill	Historian.....	VACANT
Secretary	Michelle Arostegui	Naturalization Ceremonies	Wendy Dyer
Treasurer	Dick Hattershire	Natural Resources.....	Paul Lamberger; Kathleen Turner
Action Director	Valerie Lee	Observer Corps.....	VACANT
Funding &		Speakers Bureau	Dianne Herman
Development Director	Linda Fish	Volunteer Coordinator	Laurel Kerr
Greene Co Representative	Sandra McHugh	<i>Voters Guide</i> Editor	Lucy Anne McKosky
Membership Director	Leslie Merry	<i>The Voter</i> newsletter	Deb Lukjanovs and Mary Robertson
Public Relations	Mary Robertson	Voter Registration	
Web Master	Rita Peterson	Coordinator.....	Jo Lovelace Hill
Bylaws & League Basics.....	Judy Thompson		

PASSING THE BATON

Kathy Farmer and Sandy Nearing are each retiring from roles they have long held with the League.



Kathy has represented the League at Naturalization Ceremonies for more than ten years. She has welcomed thousands of people as new citizens, explaining the process of voter registration and the role of the League of Women Voters. She has invited other League members to witness the process and to learn to represent the League at these very special proceedings, ensuring someone from the League attends each ceremony and coordinating the schedule with the Naturalization Deputy of the US District Court. Wendy Dyer is stepping into this role, and will keep volunteers apprised when the courts allow the public back into the courtroom. Wendy is adding this new responsibility to her current job of coordinating voter registration at naturalization ceremonies.

Sandy has represented the League on the Montgomery County Sanitary Engineering Department Appeals Board for at least 15 years. She has enjoyed this job, which she describes as detective work. She reads the information provided by the county, listens to the appeals of residents who have unresolved disagreements with the sanitation department, then comes to a verdict with two other Appeals Board members. Paul Lamberger, Co-Director of the Natural Resources Committee, will step into this seat when Sandy's term is up in August 2020.

The League is grateful to Kathy and Sandy for their years of service. We wish them well in their new ventures as we look forward to new ways they may engage with the League!

Welcome Our New and Returning Members

Rebecca Bowman

Betty Youngkin
1644 S Main St
Dayton, OH 45409
blesflip16@gmail.com

Matt Krug
404 Orchard Dr
Dayton, OH 45419
matthewkrug6@gmail.com

Anwyl Scott
1325 Tattersall Rd
Dayton, OH 45459
anwylscott61@hotmail.com

Dawn Bellinger
3889 Shagbark Lane
Beavercreek, OH 45440-3471
berkeley012001@yahoo.com



VOLUNTEER VOICES



DO ONE THING: Register New Voters!

Jo Lovelace Hill, VP of Voter Services, needs our help. COVID-19 has dramatically reduced opportunities for Voter Registration and distribution of absentee ballot applications. But, with everyone's help we can make a big difference in Montgomery and Greene Counties. Here's how:

Pick up Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot applications from one of several locations, or ask to have them dropped off or mailed to you. Then, share them with your friends, family, coworkers, and anyone else you come in contact with – safely, of course! Pick them up from the League office or email Jo at lvlacej@aol.com to connect.



Do you know of any upcoming events where people will be safely gathering? Let Jo know so she or someone from her team can contact the coordinator to ask if the League could provide an opportunity for attendees to register to vote or apply for an absentee ballot. Jo will provide all necessary equipment, including forms, pens and hand sanitizer.

Jo is looking for a few coordinators to oversee specific areas for Voter Registration such as food pantries, childcare centers, and senior housing. Additionally, those coordinators will need people to help them. If you have a few hours to spare between now and early October, please contact Jo. Even if you've expressed interest in helping with Voter Services in the past, please email Jo at lvlacej@aol.com so she knows of your interest in this specific project.

COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on League activities, but there are still ways to forward the League's mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy. DO ONE THING is an effort to give each LWV member a chance to do something hopeful, to make a difference. If you are having trouble finding something that fits your skills, abilities, and timeframe, please email Laurel Kerr, Volunteer Coordinator, at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net, or call/text **937.409.0536**. She will try to match you up with something that works for you!

If you would you like to help, please send an email to laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS



**The Voting Rights Act
Then and Now
1965-2020**

A conversation with Ohio Supreme Court
Justice Melody Stewart

August 6, 2020
6:30-7:30 pm

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF GREATER DAYTON AREA

LWV Greater Dayton Area is pleased to announce that Ohio's first African American female member of the Ohio Supreme Court, Justice Melody Stewart, will join us in a conversation, "The Voting Rights Act: Then and Now" in a Zoom event on August 6, 2020 from 6:30-7:30 pm. Cost: \$20 donation to LWV Greater Dayton Education Fund. Register online at [LWVDayton.org/calendar/calendar.htm](https://www.lwvdayton.org/calendar/calendar.htm) or contact the League office at **937.228.4041**. Space is limited to 100 participants. The Zoom link will be emailed to participants. Call the office regarding available scholarships for this event.



Join us online for a virtual festival commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment's passage

On August 26 at 7:00 pm, the Facebook Live event, "Women Vote: A Centennial Commemoration," will mark the date with presentations on the history of women's suffrage, including the impact of segregation on African American women, as well as modern-day suppression in the form of gerrymandering. One hundred years of women's activism will be brought to life through presentations by the League's own Dianne Herman, Lucy Anne McKosky, and Dennis Turner. Also featured: the digitized Ohio History Connection's traveling exhibit, "Ohio Women Vote;" and digitized photos of 20 art quilts, part of the "Suffragists: And They Persisted!" collection sponsored by the Miami Valley Art Quilt Network. Songs of social justice and historical protest, from the duo Troubadours of Divine Bliss and others, will make this a captivating and informative way to mark Women's Equality Day.



This event is sponsored by Harmony Creek United Church of Christ (UCC), in coordination with David's UCC, YWCA Dayton, and the LWV Greater Dayton Area. The Ohio Humanities Council awarded a grant toward the production expenses of the "Women Vote" event.

Check the LWV Greater Dayton Area Facebook page later this month for an opportunity to register for this free event. Look for us on Twitter at **#WomenVoteOhio**.

DECLARATION ON RACISM

LWV Greater Dayton Area, as an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, stands in solidarity with the City of Dayton resolution declaring racism as a public health crisis. The declaration commits the city to address policies and practices that have led to the disenfranchisement of our black and brown citizens. We cannot address the fragility of our democracy without attending to those wrongs that need to be redressed.

In accordance with our support, the League pledges:

- To model and encourage civility and commit to investigating issues from multiple viewpoints.
- To remain dedicated to the advocacy work that is focused on dismantling racism within the electoral system.
- To continue to work toward just public policy so that our community can be a safe and vibrant place for all to live, work, and **VOTE**.
- To closely monitor, expose, and work to eradicate voter suppression efforts that stifle the voice of the people.
- To commit, individually and collectively, to the principles of being antiracist (persistent self-awareness, constant self-criticism, and regular self-examination).

The League honors the memories of all who have lost their lives through miscarriages of justice and systemic racism. As the League of Women Voters, we value the power of the vote to ensure real change through informed and active participation in our government. We are prepared to look at our own internal structures and find the means to work in concert with government officials and community leaders that will enable us, collectively, to pass meaningful reforms.

~Authored by Dona Fletcher, Valerie Lee and Jo Lovelace Hill.



"All of the great social justice advances that we ever had in this country have come not from people with big titles and not from people at the top, but just from everyday people getting together saying 'Enough is enough.' I'm going to change this, and I'm going to get involved, and I am going to be engaged."

Nina Turner, former Ohio State Senator

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:

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Voting Rights Act Anniversary (see page 6)	7	8
9	10 Board Meeting	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 19th Amendment Anniversary (see page 6)	27	28	29
30	31					