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THE VOTER

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

1920 - 2020

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Whoosh! What Happened to 2019?

I am constantly asked what the League does besides elections. This question sometimes renders me speechless because, honestly, I don't know where to begin.

Certainly the election season is our busiest time. This election we hosted several candidate forums, 29 cable television interviews providing information about 91 candidates to thousands of voters. The *Voters Guide* team pulled together a 26-page *Guide*, and a team of volunteers and news outlets distributed over 125,000 copies throughout the greater Dayton area. We attended countless voter registrations, and our office answered dozens of calls from voters.

The Social Service Committee members dedicated themselves to work on Ohio's food insecurity crisis by volunteering monthly to make and serve meals at House of Bread. The Speakers Bureau created a travelling roadshow on the 19th amendment.

Volunteers attended 11 naturalization ceremonies, welcoming new citizens to our community and registering 235 new voters.

Our League hosted lunches for Judge Wiseman's Women's Therapy Court, for women who are victims of abuse.

The Funding & Development Committee rolled out our centennial year with a variety of events, hosting Capitol Chat with local representatives, and honoring Dangerous Dames Vivienne Himmell and Joyce Young. Dine & Dish events highlighted African American artist and historian Andrea Cummings and recently presented an inspiring evening featuring the life stories of women in political office. Additionally, F&D hosted Toast to Tenacity to honor the trailblazing women who fought for the 19th Amendment.

The Program Committee organized presentations on redistricting, gerrymandering, and the electoral college. We partnered with National Issues Forum on guns in our community, and with the NAACP about the formation of a Speakers Bureau for Fair Courts.

This year brought the onset of our cable program, *LWV: Empowering You*, presenting programs on the census, 2019 election, and food insecurity in our community.

We hosted classes for UD Osher Lifelong Learning and have a seat on Mayor Whaley's Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. For our centennial year, we have a book club sharing the inspiring books about women of the 20th and 21st centuries. Our **100th Anniversary Celebration** committee is planning a truly history-making event not to be missed, coming this March 7 (see back page for registration details).

None of this includes the program planning sessions, annual and quarterly meetings, or Dayton First Friday events where we entertain the community in our office space. There are events I will remember after this article is filed for the monthly *Voter* newsletter, so here's a tip of the hat to the women who design the *Voter* and the ladies who meet monthly to fold and send it to all of you.

Where did 2019 go? One thing I know for sure, it didn't go to waste!

~Susan Hesselgesser,
Executive Director, LWVGDA

DAYTON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CONTRIBUTORS

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

MAJOR LEADERSHIP CIRCLE MEMBERS

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Jo Columbro Bequest
Talbot Tower Management*

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Atrium Medical Center
Upper Valley Medical Center

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CURRENT MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS

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Peggy Berry

David & Susan Bodary

Pat Bradley-Falke

Frieda & Mike Brigner

Barbara Buddendeck**

DATV*

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Bill Gerhard, in memory of Judy
Gerhard

Carol Graff, in memory of

Bryon L. Schatzley

Sharon Harmer

Susan Hesselgesser

Hanauer & Spiegel Fund

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LWVO Voter Registration Grant

Michelle M. Maciorowski Law

Paula MacIlwaine – Women

Making A Difference

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Sandy McHugh & Jerry Sutton

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MVCC*

Network for Good

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur

Macy Reynolds

Gayle Rominger

Sinclair College

Dr. William Spon &

Dr. Margaret Dunn

Tour DeGem Event

The Virginia W. Kettering

Foundation

Women's History Project Greene

County

*In-kind contribution **In-kind contribution + monetary contribution

Recent Contributions Appreciated

General Fund – a 501(c)(4):

Lydia Boada-Clista, Susan and David Bodary, Gerald and Carole Fraver, Herbert Lee, Debbie and Dennis Lieberman, Jeffrey Mims, Sandy Neargarder, Mark Owens, Barbara Shykoff, Ann Wilger

Education Fund—a 501(c)(3)

Jack and Carlyle Barnard, Sharon Harmer, Rebecca Jamison, Rhine McLin, Montgomery County E.S.C., Nancy Nerny, Network for Good, William Overby, Kathy Peoples, Dawn Wojcik

Thank you!

An Evening with Minnie Stanley

Join us for our First Friday Open House!

Friday, January 3, 2020

5:00 – 8:00 pm

At our League Office

127 N. Ludlow Talbott Tower Dayton

Heavy hors d'oeuvre and beverages will be offered

The family of Minnie Stanley has graciously loaned our League an original oil painting which will be on display in our office. As one of the leading women of the suffrage movement in Ohio, Mrs. Minnie Stanley of Dayton (1865-1943) was the first President of our Dayton League of Women Voters, which was founded in 1920 when the vote was won. While she remained President for many years to come, she also served as the first Vice President of the Ohio League of Women Voters. Long before women won the right to vote, Minnie served as Vice President of the Montgomery County Suffrage Association. Her portrait is included in the 1930 League of Women Voters "Ohio State Honor Roll," which listed prominent Ohio women involved in the suffrage movement. Our Dayton League owes great thanks to Minnie Stanley. The Ohio History connection website states that Minnie's "characteristic devotion, farsightedness, and understanding contributed much to the upbuilding of the Ohio and Dayton Leagues." We owe a debt of gratitude to the women who fought for our enfranchisement, especially to Minnie who created her own legacy in the Dayton League.



CAPITOL CHAT

Capitol Chat with Secretary of State Frank LaRose!

Did you realize that the 2020 Primary is March 17? Our Presidential Election is less than a year away! And it seems that every day there is another discussion on whether our voting process is safe from outside influences.

At our **Capitol Chat** on **Tuesday, January 14th**, our guest speaker is **Ohio Secretary of State Frank La Rose**.

Negative influences on our election process have been in the news for several years. Come hear about the protections that Ohio has in place to ensure that your vote truly counts! Plan to bring your experience of the new voting machines – comments and questions from the floor will be encouraged.

Capitol Chat will be held at the **Dayton Club** (formerly the Dayton Racquet Club). Doors open at 5:30 pm; dinner buffet, followed by a fascinating conversation on the security of one of the fundamental pillars of our democracy – voting.

Reservation deadline January 7. You can reserve online at www.lwvdayton.org and click on 'Calendar.' Tickets are \$50 per person.



Dr. Richard Gunther



Jen Miller



LWVGDA President Andrea Cobb with Jen Miller

Gerrymandering Discussion Draws Crowd

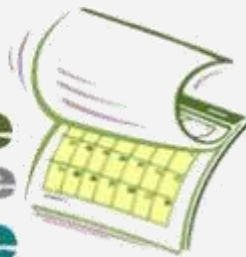
Our discussion on *Gerrymandering Today* attracted dozens of engaged citizens concerned about the negative effects gerrymandering has on our democracy.

The event was held at University of Dayton River Campus on October 29.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard Gunther, Ohio State University, provided a brief history of gerrymandering progression in Ohio and explained how the Issue One vote fought for by LWV and others provides a fairly clean path to fair district redraws, unlike other states still battling partisan power grabs.

Ohio League Executive Director Jen Miller warned the audience that the fight for fair elections is not over yet, with challenges coming from voter purges, inconsistent voting machine standards, and unaddressed barriers to easy voter registration. She said the League's recent challenge to the Ohio voter purge protected **40,000 voters** from being wrongly pulled from voter rolls. She urged the audience to encourage legislators to pass SB194, SB186, and push 2020 candidates to assure fair districting is actually implemented as the voters demanded.

Save
the
Date



Annual Dayton League

Program Planning

Meeting

Tuesday, January 21

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Location and menu TBD



Margaret & Gregory
Sammons
208 Lewiston Rd.
Kettering, OH 45429
sammons-
margaret@gmail.com

Dennis Turner
122 Brown St. Apt. C
Dayton, OH 45402
dturner1@udayton.edu

Chris Zurbuchen
501 Ridgecrest Dr.
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
cjrosz@woh.rr.com



For The People Act Worth Fighting For

SB 949 will make elections fairer and put power back in the hands of the American people. It aims to repair our broken political system and our destructive campaign finance system. Specifically it will:

- Guarantee every eligible American has the ability to register and vote by restoring the Voting Rights Act;
- Require states to allow same day registration, establishes an opt-out system of automatic registration, and online voter registration for eligible voters;
- Take politics out of redistricting nationally;
- Empower small donors by creating a public financing system to match small contributions to presidential candidates. It will also close disclosure loopholes that allow outside groups to flood elections with millions of dollars of secret money.

“It’s time to pass this legislation and make it law of the land in time for our next election.”

League of Women Voters CEO **Virginia Kase** stated, “This is the democracy reform bill the American people want and deserve. The For the People Act will make voting easier and more accessible by modernizing our elections and putting power back in the hands of the American voters. It’s time to pass this legislation and make it law of the land in time for our next election.”

You can help show that Ohioans can lead the nation in demanding reform of our democracy by urging Ohio Senators to support this bill, and

demand that it be brought to a hearing in time to protect our 2020 elections.

Read more about LWV position on For the People Act, and how you can influence its passage, at www.lwv.org/expanding-voter-access

LISTENING TO THE VOTERS

As part of our community service, the League has participated with the Women’s Therapeutic Court, a specialty docket for women who have pleaded guilty to or been convicted of drug-related offenses. The program began in 2014, with Judge Mary Wiseman currently serving at its helm. The League provides lunch and leads a discussion and/or activity to stimulate a commitment to voting and participation in the democratic process. Since participants in the therapy court were part of that younger generation, we wanted to hear issues that they would place at the top of their agenda for legislators. Allow me to share with you some of their ideas:

- ◆ Raise the minimum wage;
- ◆ Increase funding for addiction services for youth;
- ◆ Provide additional resources for people rebuilding their lives;
- ◆ Provide vouchers for housing;
- ◆ Increase funding for school systems;
- ◆ Provide a more equitable means for funding education without a reliance on property taxes;
- ◆ Support “ban the box” so incarcerated individuals can reenter society and not be penalized when looking for employment;
- ◆ Increase childcare services, geared toward mothers who need it for work, for appointments to find jobs, or to meet requirements for addiction treatment.

Most of us who have not been a part of the court system would not think of several of these items. Let us not exclude the needs of those we may consider the counter culture. They, too, must exercise their right to vote and become active participants of our society.

~Valerie Lee, Action Chair

VOLUNTEER VOICES



Naturalization Ceremonies Coordinator Retiring June 2020

“All rise!” Thus begins a naturalization ceremony in Dayton, where 35 to 100 new U.S. citizens will be sworn in. Did you know that the LWVGDA has a representative at each of these ceremonies, welcoming around 1,000 new citizens each year? For the past decade, Kathy Farmer has been the coordinator for the League’s participation in these ceremonies, most often representing the League herself. Kathy assumed this role after retiring as professor of Old Testament at United Theological Seminary. Now Kathy’s retirement is taking a new turn and she hopes to spend more time away from home. With that in mind, a new coordinator is needed by June 2020. Additional League members are also needed to be community representatives at the ceremonies.



Community Representative:

Community representatives make a brief oral presentation about the League during the naturalization program. The coordinator provides this information, and League representatives shadows a seasoned member before going alone. Naturalization ceremonies are on Thursdays, once or twice per month, requiring availability from 1:30 to 3:30 pm.

Coordinator:

The coordinator trains new League representatives, provides handouts, and schedules representatives based on their availability. The coordinator also emails the name of the representative to the court prior to each ceremony.

Kathy is passionate about this role. In Kathy’s words, “No one walks a thousand miles for nothing.” Judge Walter Rice talks about the value of an “infusion of new blood” into the community. Come try it out! Experience the privilege of welcoming new citizens into their full citizenship rights and responsibilities; enjoy the rare opportunity to shake hands with people from all over the world. Then let Kathy know if you’d like to do it again.



Interested in learning more or experiencing a Naturalization Ceremony firsthand? Contact Kathy Farmer at karfarmer43@gmail.com or Laurel Kerr, volunteer coordinator, at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

We Invite You to the Party of the Century!

The 2020 Dangerous Dames of Dayton

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Dayton Art Institute
456 Belmonte Park N., Dayton, OH 45405
5:45 pm Registration ☞ 6:00 pm Cocktails ☞ 7:00 pm Dinner



Honoring our 2020 Dangerous Dames of Dayton

Keynote Speaker, Susan Page

Susan has interviewed the past eight presidents, is Bureau Chief for *USA Today*, political contributor for CNN and MSNBC, is past president of the White House Correspondents Association, and is currently touring the country with her newest book: *The Matriarch, Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty* for sale in our League office for \$20, and at the event.

Think about holiday shopping — make it easy on yourself now and purchase Susan’s book or a ticket to the event for someone you love (it could even be for yourself!).

You also have the opportunity to insert a business-size tribute to a Dangerous Dame in your life for \$25 in our printed program for the event (you may recognize multiple people on one card — 50 word limit). Send your words of tribute and your check for \$25 for each tribute to the League office **no later than February 1, 2020**.

Tickets are \$100 per person (\$40 tax deductible); receipt of your check **no later than February 21, 2020**, made out to: Dayton Area LWV Education Fund confirms your reservation. Be sure and fill out the following information and return it with your check. You may also visit our website **www.lwvdayton.org** and click on the Paypal button to reserve your seat and indicate your reservation names and dinner options.

----- Clip and mail to reserve your space in history! -----

_____ tickets at \$100 each Vegetarian option available

Reservation Names; Indicate Vegetarian (V). Table seats 8.

_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____
_____	Dinner option _____

MAIL YOUR RESERVATION WITH CHECK TO:
LWV of the Greater Dayton Area
127 N. Ludlow St., Dayton 45402

For more information, contact us at 937.228.4041 or 937.228.4104; visit our website www.lwvdayton.org; or email us at league@lwvdayton.org

Name and phone number of contact for these reservations:

Name: _____ Phone #: _____ Email: _____



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

-founder Carrie Chapman Catt



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legislative alerts and
news, check out our
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LWV Dayton OH.

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DON'T MISS THE PARTY OF THE CENTURY!

Honoring our 2020

Dangerous Dames of Dayton

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters GDA

Saturday, March 7, 2020

6:00 pm — 9:30 pm

at the beautiful Dayton Art Institute

456 Belmonte Park N., Dayton, OH 45405

Keynote Speaker Susan Page, Bureau Chief *USA Today* and
author of *The Matriarch*, *Barbara Bush* and *the Making of an American Dynasty*

