The fight against voter suppression continues

When COVID-19 struck, League members quickly jumped in to make face masks for Miami Valley Hospital and repair N95 masks for the Department of Health. Ohio has one of the largest deaf populations in the country, a problem soon came to light. League member Lauren Schippers, Volunteer Co-Manager & Service Support Manager at Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disability Services, explained, “asks, although a necessary safety precaution, take away what little communication deaf people have with staff members not fluent in American Sign Language.” Lauren said, “Facial expressions are a huge part of ASL; they replace voice inflections that are found in verbal languages, so facial expressions are important.” Once League mask maker Rebecca Jarvi becomes aware of this dilemma, she researched mask patterns for those working within the deaf community and took special care to produce several masks with a huge part of ASL, through panel to allow for lip reading and facial expressions.

League member makes masks for the deaf

Absentee ballot request sent to every voter

If you are looking for one thing you can do today or this month to make a difference, and maybe even change the world, here’s an idea from Kim Smith Purse, Chief of the LWVGA Fair Elections Committee. Write letters to VoteRiders, a nonpartisan organization that helps people get the ID they need in order to vote. One voter suppression tactic is to create a difficult or painful process without transportation or funds to procure required ID in their state. VoteRiders is asking volunteers to send letters to make people aware of the organization’s free services, including transportation and payment for a driver’s license or state ID. Contact Kim at veamirafarzvi@gmail.com to get started, and check out the VoteRiders.org website for more information!

WELCOME new members!

Do one thing: help voters get an ID

Do you have an idea that can make a difference? Contact LWVGA Volunteer Coordinator Laurel Kerr at laurel.kerr@sbcglobal.net.

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In Memorium

The League of Women Voters Greater Dayton Area

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