

LWVO League Leaders Update

March 25, 2011

Today's Topics:

UPCOMING EVENTS

****REMINDER** Statehouse Day 2011: April 7. Register by March 30!**

****REMINDER** LWVO Convention, May 13-15. Final Call to Convention Coming to You Next Week.**

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** LWVO Strongly Opposes Restrictive Ohio Voter ID Bill**

****NEW** LWVOEF Secures Redistricting Grant from LWVEF**

****NEW** Local Leagues Take On Tough Topics and Make An Impact**

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** Phonathon Pushes Into High Gear: Your Help Needed**

ADMINISTRATION

****REMINDER** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

****REMINDER** Statehouse Day 2011: April 7. Register by March 30!**

Please register today for Statehouse Day at www.lwvohio.org. The registration deadline is March 30 and we are working to have a gathering of more than 100 people representing Leagues from across the state and partners of LWVO. We are pleased that about a dozen high school students from Kids Voting will be joining us! Please help us get the word out about this highly informative and energizing event.

Event details can be found on the website, highlights include:

- Fred Andrle, a discussion of Civil Discourse
- A panel discussion on the State Budget from different perspectives
- Secretary of State Jon Husted, sharing his election reform proposals
- Workshops on:
 - The Governor's Vision of Education
 - Redistricting: The Time is Now
 - Implementing the Affordable Care Act
 - Criminal Justice Reform as a Component of Budget Reform
- A Reception Honoring League Advocates Peg Rosenfield and Joan Lawrence

Please note that the date of Statehouse Day 2011 is now **Thursday, April 7**. (This is one day later than the original date.) The location will be the Vern Riffe Center, 31st floor, as it has been in the past.

We appreciate your help in communicating this date change to your members, and we hope you will be able to join us on April 7! Please consider carpooling from your area and bringing your friends! This event is a chance to learn more about state policy issues while connecting with League members from across the State.

****REMINDER** Mark Your Calendars for the LWVO Convention – May 13-15, 2011: *Sustaining Democracy through Sustainable Communities***

Please join co-hosting Leagues LWV-Bowling Green, LWV-Perrysburg Area, LWV-Tiffin Area and LWV- Toledo/Lucas County, LWV-Ohio—as well as League members from all over the state—at Maumee Bay State Park for the 59th League of Women Voters of Ohio Convention.

The Final Call to Convention materials will be distributed on April 1st via email to League Presidents and be available at www.lwvohio.org.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** LWVO Strongly Opposes Restrictive Ohio Voter ID Bill**

Despite there being *no* evidence of fraud under Ohio's current voter ID requirements, House Bill 159 (HB 159) seeks to require that voters use only government-issued photo IDs for identification at the polls – eliminating currently acceptable forms of ID such as utility bills, bank statements and other documents that can effectively verify identify. LWVO believes this can disenfranchise legitimate voters in Ohio (research indicates hundreds of thousands of Ohio voters may currently lack such ID) – and discourage them from exercising this vital right. Moreover, its implementation will cost a lot of money that Ohio does not have (See “The Cost of Voter ID Laws: What the Courts Say” by the Brennan Center for Justice – http://www.lwvohio.org/base.cfm?page_id=2004.)

Voting rights has been a core principle of the League's for the 91 years of our existence—and LWVO elections specialist Peg Rosenfield testified March 22 opposing HB 159. She also represented the League at a press conference on March 23. Please read her testimony at <http://tinyurl.com/lwvo-testimonyhb159>.

HB 159 is a solution to a problem that does not exist. Introduced March 15, this rushed bill passed the Ohio House on March 23, blocking education of and input from legislators' constituents. This morning, the Columbus Dispatch urged legislators to “slow down” in an editorial: <http://tinyurl.com/4vrybzx>.

Please look for and respond to an LWVO Action Alert on HB 159 when the Ohio Senate begins consideration of the bill in the near future.

****NEW** LWVOEF Secures Redistricting Grant from LWVEF**

LWVOEF is pleased to be recognized with a LWVEF \$5000 grant to support the League's work this spring and summer on its redistricting reform efforts. As LWVEF notes, “Redistricting is an issue that goes to the heart of our democratic system of government. Representative democracy depends on voters freely choosing their elected officials. When, instead, officials choose their voters, our system does not work as intended.” See the LWVEF website for more information about redistricting at:

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Redistricting&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=225&ContentID=16699>

Please visit our imPACT redistricting website for more information and resources: <http://www.ohioimpact.org/site.cfm/imPACT-Home/Issues/Redistricting.cfm>. Find out more about how you and your League can participate in the redistricting reform effort at the redistricting workshop at Statehouse Day.

****NEW** Local Leagues Take On Tough Topics and Make An Impact**

Kudos to the following Local Leagues on their successful imPACT meetings:

- LWV of Delaware – “Government for Sale? The Role of Money in Elections” on February 24. See photos and details at: <http://www.lwvdelawarecountyohio.com/>.
- LWVs of the Akron Area, Hudson and Tallmadge – “Secret Money in Elections: Transparency in Government?” on March 19. See photos and details at: http://www.lwvaa.org/mtg_2011-03.htm.

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** Phonathon Pushes Into High Gear: Your Help Needed**

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to support LWVO and LWVOEF through the Phonathon campaign! We have received \$14,000 in contributions thus far, getting us 33% to our goal of raising \$42,000.

This annual fundraiser provides critical funds to the state League while benefiting Local Leagues too (15% of donations received by May 1 go back to donors' home League). The partnership and shared vision of LWVO and local Leagues across the state make us stronger.

We need your help in asking members for support. Phonathon Chair Rosanne Thomas, will be providing League presidents with an update on the status of contributions from your League this next week. Please help us reach out to members who have not yet contributed. Rosanne is happy to work with Leagues to help Phonathon 2011 a success for all Ohio Leagues. If you would like to contact Rosanne, please email her at rosanne.thomas@gmail.com.

Thank you!

ADMINISTRATION

****REMINDER** Deadline to Transfer Local League Education Funds: June 30, 2011**

We are about to enter the fourth quarter of our fiscal year and following up on earlier notes; the LWV-Ohio Education Fund will discontinue administering local League education funds (LLEFs) at the end of this fiscal year—June 30, 2011—rather than start charging fees of participating Leagues.

To continue to ensure the local Leagues' ability to easily maintain their education funds, the board has investigated and shared a number of options for transferring administration of your League's education fund to another entity with the presidents and treasurers of the local Leagues. **The LLEFs currently administered by the state Education Fund must be transferred from the LWV-Ohio Education Fund before the June 30, 2011, deadline.**

For more information about transferring your League's education fund by **June 30, 2011**, please contact Michele Martin at the LWVOEF office via email at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org or call toll free at 1-877-LWVO-OHIO (1-877-598-6446).

DATES TO REMEMBER

Statehouse Day

April 7, 2011

State Board Meeting

May 12, 2011

**LWVO Convention 2011
Maumee Bay State Park**

May 13-15, 2011

LWVO Lobby Lunches

All are welcome!

Columbus Metropolitan Library
96 S. Grant Ave., Columbus

**2nd and 4th Tuesday of each
month, 11:30 am – 1 p.m.**

Call 877-598-6446 for more
information.

If you have local League leaders or other League members who would like to receive the Leaders' Update, please send their email information to leg@lwvohio.org.

**League of Women Voters of Ohio
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*Encouraging informed and active participation in government.
Working to increase understanding of major public policy issues.
Influencing public policy through education and advocacy.*

Joanna Z. Helon

Interim Executive Director

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