

LWVO League Leaders Update

February 24, 2011

Today's Topics:

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **REMINDER**** Regional Meetings Feb. 26, 2011. Coming to you this Saturday!
- **REMINDER**** Statehouse Day 2011: April 7. Register online today.
- **REMINDER**** LWVO Convention, May 13-15, 2011

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

- **NEW**** Information on Collective Bargaining
- **NEW**** Letter to the Editor Template RE: Abolition of Death Penalty
- **NEW**** LWVO sends letter to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources
- **REMINDER**** 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Available
- **REMINDER**** LWVO Program Planning Materials Available/ Please Respond Now!

MEMBERSHIP

- **NEW**** E-News from LWVO sent to members across the state

ADMINISTRATION

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

****REMINDER** Regional Meetings -- Feb. 26. Coming to you this Saturday!**

2011 Regional Meetings are scheduled at a location near you! The regional meetings will be an opportunity for an ideas-exchange with members from neighboring Leagues and all League members are invited to attend their region's meeting!

Please visit <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/About-LWV/Local-Leagues.cfm> for the meeting schedule. Please RSVP to Jean Koznarek at jkozlwv@aol.com.

****NEW** Statehouse Day 2011. Join us on April 7!**

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! Our goal is to have more than 100 League members in attendance at this important and interesting event.

Registration information is also now available online at www.lwvohio.org. The online registration form is now active and it is possible to pay by credit card or check. Of course, the registration form is also available to print and send in with a check.

The theme of this year's event is Civil Discourse – and will be the subject discussed by our keynote speaker, Fred Andrlle, a retired National Public Radio host from the central Ohio area whose radio program was known for inspiring conversation. Stay tuned for more details on workshop topics and not-to-miss speakers!

****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.

Mark your calendar for May 13-15. The 1st Call to Convention has been sent to local League presidents, and more information, including registration and hotel information, is available in the winter VOTER and online at www.lwvohio.org. Please note the correct contact information for Carol Russell is 419-931-4416 and she can be reached via email at crussell@bex.net. She is the contact for the hotel registration for the LWVO convention at Maumee Bay State Park before April 11. After April 11, reservations can be made directly with Maumee Bay State Park at 419-836-1466. The room cost will be \$99 per night, but full taxes will apply and there will not be a guarantee of rooms available. Final Call to Convention materials will be online on April 1.

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** Information on Collective Bargaining**

LWVO does not have a position on the collective bargaining legislation being discussed at the Statehouse. For example, the state government finance position only addresses taxes; it does not address collective bargaining.

****NEW** Letter to the Editor Template RE: Abolition of the Death Penalty**

Background:

Calls for the abolition of the death penalty are being made by the Ohio Supreme Court Justice who, as a legislator, helped write the current law; by the former Director of the Department of Corrections; and by the Catholic Bishops of Ohio. The same problems identified in the LWVO study continue ([http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Death_Penalty_Study\[1\].pdf](http://www.lwvohio.org/assets/attachments/file/Death_Penalty_Study[1].pdf)), including systemic bias against minorities; violations of due process; and inequalities in legal representation. Yet the State of Ohio is scheduling seven more executions this year.

LWV-Ohio Advocacy Position:

The League of Women Voters of Ohio's position on Capital Punishment: Support abolition of the death penalty and a moratorium on use of the death penalty.

How you can help:

To get the message out, a template letter to the editor *is attached* to this League Leaders' Update for League presidents to individualize and send to their local newspapers on the issue. If there are multiple Leagues in your area, please coordinate sending the letter.

Note: Over the next few weeks, LWV-Ohio will ask you to consider sending a letter to the editor on one more issue, Handling of Provisional Ballots.

****NEW** LWVO sends letter to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources**

State League President, Meg Flack, sent a letter to the Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, David Mustine, conveying the League's position "for the significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources." It expressed concern for the potential for serious environmental damage from extraction of natural gas by hydraulic fracturing (also called 'fracking') and expressed support for a one-year moratorium on the issuance of new permits.

****REMINDER** 2011 Legislative Interview Materials Available: Building Relationships with Your Legislators!**

What: LWVO highly encourages local Leagues to conduct face-to-face interviews with their Ohio legislators at the beginning of each new session of the General Assembly (odd-numbered years).

Where is the information Leagues need? The Legislative Interview Packet is on the LWVO website in the Member Area section under [2011 Legislative Interview Materials](#). The packet includes local League assignments, interview questions, and reporting form.

If your League is not able to participate, **please let LWVO know by Feb. 28.**

****REMINDER** LWVO 2011 Program Planning Is Now! Reports Due Now!**

Program planning is key for our statewide education and advocacy efforts. The grassroots nature of the LWVO program planning process is one of the best features of the League. Local Leagues can provide members with the opportunity to share their opinions and make their voices heard by holding Program Planning meetings. **Reports were due to the State LWVO office by February 23, 2011.** Please let us know if your report is forthcoming.

All the materials needed for local Leagues' program-planning meetings are available in the Member Area section in the 2011 Program Planning folder at <http://www.lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Member-Area/2011-Program-Planning-Material.cfm> .

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** E-News from LWVO sent to members across the state**

Yesterday, the LWVO sent out an E-News email to all of its members whose email address we have on record. If you did not receive the E-News but would like to, please email Michele Martin at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org. If you have not had a chance to become our friend on Facebook, look up "League of Women Voters of Ohio" and "like" our page!

ADMINISTRATION

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

We are past the mid-point in 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

Regional Meetings for Local Leagues	February 26, 2011
State Board Meetings	March 4-5, 2011 and May 12, 2011
Statehouse Day	April 6, 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.**

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