

LWVO LEAGUE Leaders Update
May 13, 2009

Today's Topics:

Convention 2009 Recap

- **NEW** PMP Increase Passed**
- **NEW** LWVO Officers and Board Members Elected**
- **NEW** Key Note Address from Dr. Joan McLean**
- **NEW** LWVO Action Resolutions Passed**
- **NEW** Directions to the Board submitted**

Power Pledge

- **NEW** Local Leagues' Help Needed to Reach Power Pledge Goals.**

MEMBERSHIP

- **NEW** MRI Update.**
- **NEW** Annual Profile and Officer's Updates**

ADMINISTRATION

- **NEW** New Website template**

ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

****NEW** LWVO Convention 2009 Recap**

Convention 2009 provided a great opportunity for delegates, visitors, special guests and friends to share ideas and inspirations to carry on the work of the League of Women Voters of Ohio. More than 80 League members representing 21 local leagues and the state LWVO converged upon Dublin Ohio in early May to pass the League's program and budget as well as participate in workshops and networking opportunities. The delegates unanimously elected the 2009-2011 Board of Directors and overwhelmingly supported the program and several action resolutions.

PMP Increase and Operating Budget Passed.

After significant discussion, the convention passed an increase in the **Per Member Payment** (PMP) that will take effect in two stages beginning July 1, 2009. The Current PMP is \$23.50 which will rise to \$24.24 on July 1, 2009 and to \$25.00 on July 1, 2010. The new PMP will be based upon membership numbers as of February 1, 2009. For more information on PMP changes, please contact Charisse Armstead at membership@lwvohio.org.

The new operating budget was passed by the delegates on May 3, 2009. [Click Here](#) to download the combined budget.

New Officers Elected

Meg G. Flack, Ph. D., of LWV Metro Columbus was elected President. Meg Flack holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Management as well as a Doctorate in Sociology. Dr. Flack has served on the LWVO state board as both secretary and chair of advocacy and legislation. She also is a member of the LWVO Lobby Corps where she lobbies on capital punishment issues.

LWVO President Flack is joined on the Board of Directors by the following

Officers

Vice President: Ardith Keck – LWV Akron

Vice President: Jean Koznarek – LWVO MAL (Member at Large)

Treasurer: Gail Pytel – LWV Kent

Secretary: Debbie Schmieding – LWV Athens

Board of Directors

Nancy Brown- LWVO Metro Columbus*

Melissa Currance – LWV Cincinnati

Gwendolyn Fish – LWV Greater Youngstown

Anne Henkener – LWV Metro Columbus

Sally Mier – LWV Greater Dayton

Kurt Miller – LWV Shaker Heights

Teana Nichol – LWV Greater Dayton

Terrie Nielsen – LWV Kent

Mary Van Nortwick – LWV Oberlin

*Nancy Brown was appointed by the 2009-2011 Board to fill a vacant seat.

Nancy G. Brown of LWV Metro Columbus to the Board. Nancy Brown received a B.A. in 1962 and a M.A. in 1963 from the University of Chicago and a J.D. from The Ohio State University in 1974. Her professional career included almost 30 years with Borden, Inc., including stints as General Counsel of Borden Foods Corporation and Borden Chemical, Inc. Nancy's League of Women Voters experience began in the 60's in Berkeley, California and included serving on the Board of Trustees of the League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus where she was president from 2003 to 2005. Nancy has served on the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Council on World Affairs and is currently a volunteer guardian ad litem with CASA. She enjoys

traveling, hiking, reading and, most of all, her three children and twelve grandchildren. [Click here for bios](#) on all board members.

The delegates also elected Chris Driver, Susan Barbati and Cindy Wright to the Nominating Committee.

A Message from the Executive Director:

This was a great convention and I was excited to experience it with you for the first time as the LWVO/EF Executive Director. It was great to connect names and faces and have a chance to fellowship and network as we conducted the business of the League. There were great workshops, wonderfully informative and inspiring speakers and dynamic members. Anyone who was unable to attend this event certainly missed a treat so I hope you will begin making plans now for the 2011 convention which will be held in Northwest Ohio.

This is your League and your presence and participation enhances the work that we do and what we can accomplish together.

As always, the LWVO/EF state office staff is available and willing to assist you where possible.

In League,

Deidra

The Next Biennial Convention will be held in 2011 in Northwest Ohio hosted by the Bowling Green, Perrysburg and Toledo Leagues.

****NEW** Dr. Joan McLean Delivers Inspiring Convention Keynote Address**

In "One Step Forward, One Step Back, keynote speaker Dr. Joan E. McLean gave LWV-Ohio Convention delegates a thought-provoking and insightful presentation regarding how the "wired world" impacts our thinking about democracy and public policy-- and how an individual's answers to two questions shape their political ideology. Dr. McLean is professor of politics and government at Ohio Wesleyan University, where she has taught since 1990. She has a special interest in American public affairs and political behavior, and her current research examines the effect of term limits on the career decisions of state legislators. In 1996, she received one of University's two teaching awards, Shankland Encouragement of Teachers Award, and is currently serving as the Associate Dean for First-Year Students and Academic Advising at Ohio Wesleyan University.

You can download a copy of Dr. McLean's speech from the LWVO website.

****NEW** LWVO Convention Delegates Pass Action Resolutions on Key Subjects**

The LWVO Convention Delegates passed nine Action Resolutions covering the following topics: Redistricting, Election Administration, Energy Conservation, Income Tax Action, Cleveland Port Authority- Confined Disposal, Education School Funding and Sub. HB 1, Community School Accountability, Public Funds for Public Schools- Vouchers and Opposition to Senator Coughlin's SB 6 regarding Special Education. You can download all passed resolutions from the LWVO website or by clicking [here](#)

****NEW** Directions to the Board Submitted for Consideration**

The Board received two submissions for directions for consideration. The Board will consider both items at the next meeting and provide appropriate feedback at that time. Thank you to the Leagues that submitted their directions to Deidra Reese at the close of the Convention on May 3, 2009.

POWER PLEDGE

The Delegates to the 2009 Convention passed a state budget that included income of \$25,000 in Power Pledge Donations for our fiscal year which begins July 1, 2009. As of May 1, 2009, we have only raised \$8100 toward that goal. With less than 6 weeks to the beginning of our new fiscal year it is evident that we must place an emphasis on generating funds to balance the budget that was recently adopted. If we are to meet that goal, it is imperative that every Local League assist in helping to raise these funds. The Development Committee is preparing an electronic message that will be delivered to members very soon but we need your help as well. Please do all you can to promote Power Pledge and encourage donations to continue to support the important work that we do. [Click Here](#) to download a copy of the letter that was sent to members early this year encouraging their support.

MEMBERSHIP

****NEW** Membership Recruitment Initiative**

Membership Recruitment Initiative by Charisse Armstead, Membership Manager

The Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI) was presented at the 58th Annual LWVO State Convention. Kelly McFarland Stratman, LWVUS Director, Membership/Field Support presented the MRI workshop. This workshop covered Best Practices, Outreach & Focus, and Developing a Workplan.

MRI is the solution, as LWV is well respected and trusted. MRI is a partnership between local, state and national Leagues; a framework of best practices to help recruit grassroots members; and a focused, intentional approach to increase visibility. In this time where membership is declining, it is imperative that our local leagues take every opportunity to promote and encourage membership and the MRI program provides great tools and tips to enhance those actions.

Visit the MRI section on www.lwv.org. Begin to add your story to the Storybank. Talk with your Board about the Best Practices, and ASK individuals to join! For additional information on MRI, please contact Membership Manager, Charisse Armstead at 614-496-1505 ext. 12 or at membership@lwvohio.org.

****NEW** Annual Profile and Officers Updates**

Please make certain you update your Contact Information regarding League Leaders with the state LWVO office. We need the most current information regarding name and contact information for officers so that you can receive the League Leaders Update. Each Local League is requested to complete the Annual Profile Form and return to the state office by June 30, 2009.

ADMINISTRATION

****NEW** Website Template Information**

If your local League is interested in learning more about using the new LWVO website template that was previewed at the state convention, please contact the office. The Impact Group, which designed the new site is eager to work with local Leagues to help provide their web services. The state League has arranged to allow the use of the site template by local League thereby saving design costs. The Impact Group is preparing information to be shared with all interested Leagues so please let the office know of your interest.

To learn more about the Impact Group and their services go to their website at <http://igpr.com/>

Mark Your Calendars

LWVO State Board Retreat

June 14-15, 2009 Deer Creek State Park

LWVO Lobby Lunches

2nd and 4th Tuesday, 11:30 am

Anyone is Welcome to Attend

Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S. Grant Ave, Columbus, 3rd floor

Call 877.598.6446 for more information

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

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