



April 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. LWVO Convention is less than a month away! Are you registered?

It's almost time! Are you as excited as we are? LWVO's 60th State Convention is May 4-5 in Cleveland. Have dinner with Alice Paul on Saturday evening and get inspired by our guest speaker, Jan Roller, former president of the Cleveland City Club who will discuss our convention theme: "Energizing Democracy: What would Alice do?" Come learn about "Sharing Your Story in a Multi-media World", "Philanthropy Trends & Tips for Fundraisers", "How to Be a Lobbyist (even if you don't live in Central Ohio)", and more educational and energizing topics at our fabulous workshops. And best of all, meet and talk with League members from around the state.

Materials for voting delegates were sent out to League presidents in March and can be found on the state website. [Click here](#) to register and for convention materials.

2. Is your League looking for new members? Join Ohio's MLD Program!

The Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program - proven to be successful in membership recruitment and retention, leadership development, and sparking renewed energy in many Leagues - is being launched in Ohio.

We invite your League to join the MLD program today. To launch the program, participating Leagues' MLD Teams will attend a two-day training session in central Ohio on June 22-23.

8.
Support your League
of Women Voters
with a donation to the
LWV Ohio 2013
Annual Campaign!

9.
Time to update board
rosters! New board
resources available
online.

10.
LWVUS Spring
Telemarketing Outreach
Program
Runs April 18 to May 15

We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The deadline for applying for the MLD program is May 17, 2013 - and applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please click to see the [application form](#), as well as the [overview of the MLD program](#). The application form is also available in Word on our website [here](#), so that you can download it and fill in the form.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at mflack@columbus.rr.com or 614.235.5993.

3. LWVO/EF adopts a new strategic plan

"A goal without a plan is just a wish." -Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The LWVO/EF Board is thrilled to announce that we officially have a new 5-year strategic plan to lead us into the future. In the spring of 2012, the state League embarked on the process of developing a strategic plan. The LWVO board spent the last year reflecting on our strengths and weaknesses, gathering outside perspectives about what we do well and what can be done better, formulating goals for what we would like League to become and setting objectives for reaching those goals.

LWVO is incredibly grateful to the indefatigable Frank Kunstel, Ph.D., our strategic planning consultant, without whose guidance none of this would have been possible.

Our new plan was formally adopted at the March 2013 board meeting. We are confident you will be as excited as we are about putting this plan into action and will agree that it promises an exciting future for the state League and its interaction with and support of local Leagues. [Click here](#) to read the plan for yourself on the LWVO website.

4. LWVO's election reform garners LWVUS PAPV Grant

The presidential election may be over, but how Ohio

conducts elections is still a hot topic in Columbus. The Ohio legislature is rolling out a series of bills addressing numerous election issues, election officials are holding discussions about what changes would help the process, and voter advocates - including LWVO - are researching possible solutions that would make elections more fair and more efficient.

The state League office has been in frequent contact with LWVUS, as many of our state reform topics match LWVUS's list of priority voting reforms for 2013 - including secure online voter registration, expanded early voting, and improved polling place management.

We hope you will be pleased to learn that LWVUS has invested in our work by awarding LWVOEF an \$8,000 Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) Project grant to support our efforts to improve Ohio elections. Stay tuned for updates and announcements as this work progresses.

5. Board of Elections (BOE) audit report

Thank you to the Leagues and members who participated in the BOE post-election audit observation project for the November 2012 election. LWVOEF compiled and analyzed the audit results submitted by Leagues around the state and produced a report, a copy of which has been shared with the Ohio Secretary of State and with participating local Leagues. [Click here](#) to download and read a copy of the report.

6. Fracking plan (April all-member call recap)

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the April all-member conference call about Fracking.

Kristin Vessey, LWVO Fracking Specialist, and Al Rosenfield, LWVO Renewable Energy Specialist, led the discussion. They provided an overview of LWVO and LWVUS positions that relate to fracking and described the advocacy we have been able to do under those positions. [Click here](#) for more information.

The call participants discussed whether our current

positions are sufficient or whether we should adopt - by consensus or concurrence - a fracking specific position. An ad-hoc committee was formed to explore this question. Any League member who wishes to volunteer for this committee should contact Kristin Vessey at kbvessey@gmail.com.

There will be a Fracking Caucus at state Convention on Saturday evening, May 4th.

7. May's first Tuesday all-member call is cancelled due to Convention

The League of Women Voters of Ohio will NOT be holding an all-member conference call on the first Tuesday of May due to Convention.--We hope to see you at Convention! [Click here](#) to register.

Our regular monthly calls will resume on the first Tuesday of June.

8. Support your League of Women Voters with a donation to the LWV Ohio 2013 Annual Campaign!

The LWVO 2013 Annual Campaign is a little more than halfway to our goal, and you can help us reach that goal! As League members, you know that many people think of the League of Women Voters a few weeks or days before an election, when they need reliable information about the candidates on their ballot or how to exercise their right to vote. But what we know well is that protecting voting rights, working for good government and being a civil voice amongst the partisan rancor is needed all year round.

As many of you know, membership dues are just a small fraction of our budget. It takes additional support for us to carry out our mission of being the premier provider of voter service, education and advocacy.

Please consider making a donation today to the LWVO 2013 Annual Campaign. [Donate online here](#) or mail a check to LWV Ohio, 17 S. High St. Suite 650, Columbus, OH 43215.

9. Time to update board rosters! New board resources available online.

The state League would like to extend a hearty THANK YOU to all of the 2011-2013 League board members who have served at the state and local level over the last two years. Thank you for helping us *make democracy work*.

We also want to extend our WELCOME to all the 2013-2015 board members who have or will be taking office soon to lead us over the next two years.

Please send your updated League board roster and contact information to the state office at lwvinfo@lwvohio.org. We often reach out to local League presidents with important questions or information, and it helps to have updated contacts so that time-sensitive material reaches you on time.

As your League is conducting board orientations, we wanted to remind you that the LWVO website has a resource page for League Leaders - that includes a wide variety of policies, guidance, and best practices for all aspects of League management. [Click here](#) to view the resource page. If you think of other items that would be helpful to include, please let us know.

10. LWWUS Spring Telemarketing Outreach Program Runs April 18 to May 15

The LWWUS Development Office wants to alert League leaders that the LWWUS annual spring telemarketing outreach program runs from April 18 through approximately May 15, 2013. During this campaign, national donors, as well as those local members who contribute to LWWUS, are contacted by phone with a request for support. In addition, local members whose League membership has lapsed by more than two years are contacted and given the opportunity to renew membership with their local League. Please direct questions to Rose Simmons at rsimmons@lww.org.