

April 2016

Ohio League Leader Updates

Contents

1. Statehouse Day - April 26, 2016

- a. Thank you to our 2016 Statehouse Day Sponsors
- b. Join LWVO's Volunteer Lobby Corps!

2.

LWVO Volunteer Opportunities Available

3.

New 2016 Voting 1-2-3 info card available

4. MLD Tip: Use Your League's Annual Meeting to Attract & Energize!*

5.

May all-member call

6.

Important announcements from LWVUS about Convention:

- a. URGENT - CONVENTION HOTEL ROOM BLOCK NOTICE
- b. Register for Convention!
- c. Convention and Lobby Day 2016 Schedule at a Glance
- d. Voting is now open for the "Making Democracy Work" Awards - Vote for Ohio!

1. Statehouse Day - April 26, 2016

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Statehouse Day event and made it such a resounding success! Attendees participated in lively discussions about money in judicial elections, equitable school funding, fixing gerrymandering, Ohio's infrastructure, and addressing gun safety.

The event program, session presentations and handouts have been posted on the LWVO website on the Statehouse Day page under the Member Area - [click here](#).

LWVO's volunteer lobbyists were recognized and given special pins as a thank you. We couldn't do what we do without our wonderful, dedicated group of volunteer lobbyists. You can read their lobbyist reports on issues of interest to LWVO on the website [here](#).

The new 2016 Voter Education cards were popular. We distributed around 2,300 of the new Voting 1-2-3 info cards and 900 of the new Judicial Votes Count postcards. Additional quantities are being printed and will be available soon.

Check out the event photos in our Facebook album [here](#). To upload your own photos, click on the link and then on "+ add photos".

a. Thank you to our 2016 Statehouse Day Sponsors

Thank you to all our Statehouse Day sponsors for making this year's event a success!

Partnering Sponsors: Alison S. Ricker, M.L.S., and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Ph.D.

Host/Hostess Sponsors: Ellen Chamberlin, Janet Chittock, Andrea and Vincent Cobb, Darci Congrove, Meg Flack, Tammy Hardgrove-Shomo, Martha Kleinfelter, Marlene and Bill Muse.

b. Join LWVO's Volunteer Lobby Corps!

There are so many issues of importance to LWVO. We'd love to be able to do advocacy on all of them, but we're often limited by not having enough people to do it all. That's why we need your help!

We'd like to expand LWVO's volunteer lobby corps, so that together we

can do more.

ANYONE can be a lobbyist. No special credentials required other than being a LWV member who's interested in seeing League positions applied. No one is expected to start out as an expert. We all learn as we go. What's most important is finding an issue you care about.

You don't have to live in Columbus. It's easy to follow an issue online, and our lobbying team works on drafting advocacy materials mostly by email.

You can volunteer to work on just one issue or many. Ideally, we'd like to have more than one person for each issue, to spread the work around.

A handout was distributed at Statehouse Day inviting members to indicate topics of interest for joining Lobby Corps. Members can fill it out and send it to lwvinfo@lwvohio.org anytime, and a member of the lobby team will be in touch about how to get involved.

2. LWVO Volunteer Opportunities Available

We are always on the lookout for League members who want to volunteer their time and talent to grow our state League. Current projects in which we'd welcome volunteers to apply include:

- If you like advocacy: Join LWVO's volunteer lobby corps, who monitor issues of interest to League in the state legislature and draft advocacy materials.
- If you enjoy fundraising: We seek LWV leaders to join the Steering Committee for our 5-year fundraising campaign.
- If you like welcoming new members: Apply to be a coach for the Membership and Leadership Development Program.
- If you want to build a strong state League: Work with the nominating committee to identify future state board members.
- If you enjoy public education and writing: Help review content for the new edition of our "Know Your Ohio Government" book.
- If you are passionate about voter rights: Volunteer to help with "Election Protection" this fall. We will need volunteers all around Ohio, and free training is provided.

Contact the LWV Ohio office at 614-469-1505 or lwvinfo@lwvohio.org for more information or to apply. Thank you!

3. New 2016 Voting 1-2-3 info card available

The first of our new 2016 voter service materials are now available. [Click here to see the new 2016 Voting 1-2-3 info cards!](#) Cards were distributed at Statehouse Day for Leagues to take home.

We will have many more new voter service materials coming soon -

including a Voting 1-2-3 college student card and a factsheet on "what's changed since the last time Ohio voted for President." We'll be sure to send around an announcement as new materials become available.

4. MLD Tip: Use Your League's Annual Meeting to Attract & Energize!*
First and foremost, annual meetings should not just be about "League business."

The annual meeting provides local Leagues the opportunity to:

- Celebrate the League's accomplishments from the past year;
- Recognize League volunteers for their great work;
- Share the value of being a League member with the community and ASK them to join;
- Show the importance and effectiveness of the League to your community;
- Energize your members around a community issue;
- Engage current members and highlight leadership opportunities;
- Connect with allied groups and/or do media outreach; and
- Have FUN!

How can we do this? Plan your annual meeting like any other League event using the Event Planning Checklist available [here](#).

*Excerpted from LWVUS February 2013 Guidance on Opportunities: Annual Meetings that Attract & Energize! available [here](#).

5. May all-member call

Please join us for a special All-Member Conference Call on **Tuesday, May 3 at 12 noon**.

We will hear a presentation from the LWVUS Board's Program Planning Committee about the proposed LWVUS Program for 2016-2018 that will be voted on by delegates at LWVUS Convention in June.

LWVUS's Proposed Program was announced in mid-April, and you can read it [here](#).

LWVUS Board members Barbara Zia and Chris Carson will provide an overview of the proposed Campaign for Making Democracy Work that came out of the 3-part Structures of American Democracy study and update. Toni Larson, also on the LWVUS Board, will explain the recommended concurrence with the Colorado League's Behavioral Health position.

CALL-IN NUMBER: (866) 740-1260
Pin Number 4691505#

The recording of the all-member call will be available online in the Member Area of the LWVO website following the call until the end of the month. Please note that the podcast is intended for LWV members and guests (just like the calls) and, therefore, should not be shared with anyone outside the League family.

6. Important announcements from LWVUS about Convention:

a. URGENT - CONVENTION HOTEL ROOM BLOCK NOTICE

The League's room block at the Marriott Wardman Park is filled to capacity for the nights of June 16th, 17th and 18th. If you haven't yet gotten a room, be assured LWVUS is working to designate a nearby hotel for overflow guests. Once they send out that new hotel information, we cannot stress enough the importance of your acting immediately to reserve a room. Several city-wide conventions are in DC at that time, and hotel space near the Marriott Wardman Park and elsewhere is in extremely short supply.

Here's how to stay on top of this situation and act quickly:

- Early next week, the new hotel block information will be on the Convention 2016 website. Check [here](#) frequently for this addition, and take action as soon as it's posted.
- The information on overflow hotel will also be e-mailed on Thur., May 5, to all state, local, ILO presidents and executive directors. Please forward it to your League members, ASAP so all can act quickly to reserve a room now given the tight hotel situation in DC in June.
- If you reserved a room at the Marriott Wardman Park and are able to share, use the Convention Google Group to post an "ISO Roommate" notice. If you're not already signed up for this Convention Group, [click here](#) to find out how to join.

b. Register for Convention!

Use the [online form](#) to register for Convention. The Early Bird Convention fee of \$395 includes pre-convention webinars and participation from Thursday afternoon, June 16 through noon on Sunday, June 19 in all trainings, workshops, briefings, caucuses and general sessions. This fee also includes the LWVUS-hosted banquet and program on Saturday evening. The Early Bird registration fee is available until May 31, 2016. A fee of \$50 will be added to registrations received after that date.

c. Convention and Lobby Day 2016 Schedule at a Glance

To help you plan your trip to DC and your time while here, check out the [schedule at a glance](#) for a quick overview of Lobby Day and Convention events.

d. Voting is now open for the "Making Democracy Work" Awards - Vote for Ohio!

LWVUS just posted the finalists (including LWVO!) for the Making Democracy Work awards for Convention in June. Voting is now open!

Looks like we have some very worthy competition for the state award from California, Kansas, and Wisconsin. Please help us promote this with Ohio League members and share with your League friends in other states. Help us show how important Fair Districts are to Leagues by voting for Ohio! For more information, [click here](#).