



# April 2014

## Ohio League Leader Updates

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### 1. 2014 Statehouse Day and Council Recap

This year's Statehouse Day was an enjoyable, informative day filled with engaging presentations and networking among local League members. [Click here](#) to read the LWVO lobbyist reports, summaries of the various sessions, and view photos from the event.

### 2. Membership awards at State Council

Congratulations to the 11 Leagues which showed an increase in membership this year and were honored at Statehouse Day. Leagues which have grown between .5 and 9.5% were Bowling Green, Clermont, Cuyahoga, Oberlin, Shaker Heights, and Toledo-Lucas. Those with an increase between 10 and 19% were Chillicothe Ross, Greater Dayton, and Oxford. Two Leagues had 20% or more growth: Athens and Trumbull. And Dayton added 37 new members!

A variety of methods are being used (social, outreach, scholarships, etc), but the most important and consistent thing that works is asking people to join!

Membership is critical to all of us if the League is to continue to be a powerful voice in the 21st century. Kudos to all the League members working on it!

### 3. ABJ charter school project

The Akron Beacon Journal and TheNewsOutlet.org have undertaken an investigation of charter school performance in an effort to provide factual information about schools that would enable parents and the public to better assess the performance of individual schools. The League has been asked to host public forums around the State. Most of these forums will be held at the end of the year or early in 2015, although the Greater Youngstown League hosted an initial forum on April 28th.

We will have more information about this project in the near future, but as you are considering programs for next year, keep this in mind. There may be opportunities to collaborate with neighboring Leagues as well as a host of community organizations which share our concern about the

available  
D. LWVUS proposed  
PMP for 2014-2016

8.  
All Member Conference  
Call

accountability of non-public schools receiving public funds.

#### **4. MLD Tip of the Month: Engaging New Members and Emerging Leaders**

When you were new to the League, were you given engaging tasks and projects that made you feel like your skills were useful? Did members ask you what types of work you were passionate about? Creating positive initial experiences for new members - and new and potential leaders - is crucial to the success of the League. Here are a few ways to provide opportunities:

- Ask new members to volunteer at the next League event. Is there a small task they can assist with? Welcome people? Help set up the room? Collect questions from the audience? Afterwards, ask what they thought and what would interest them for the next event.
- Call them to action: Ask them to take some kind of action: Take a friend to vote! Become a fan of the League's Facebook page! Follow the League on Twitter! Send a donation!
- Connect them with a League "buddy" or mentor: Recruit members who will stay in touch with them for the upcoming months. This gives them a contact and someone to ask questions, go to meetings with and provide a friendly welcome to the League. The mentor could be someone who works on an issue of interest to them. This can be a good way to engage and retain new members (and their mentors) by keeping them linked to what is happening.
- Thank them: Everyone - everyone - appreciates having their time and effort acknowledged.

Adapted from LWVUS MLD Guidance: Engaging Members = Moving Individuals Onto & Up the Leadership Ladder

#### **5. Reminder: Judicial voter education mini- grants are available - apply today!**

Local Leagues are invited to apply for Judicial Voter Education Mini-Grants.

LWVOEF has launched a Judicial Voter Education campaign to address the problem of voter drop-off in judicial races. Voters frequently skip voting for judges due to lack of information about how to evaluate and choose a candidate who will make a good judge.

At February Regional Meetings, League members were introduced to new resources available for Judicial Voter Education. [Click here](#) to find these tools on the NEW Judicial Voter Information page on the state League website.

Thanks to the Joyce Foundation, the state League is once again able to offer pass-thru grants to local Leagues to support local judicial voter education projects.

Local Leagues are invited to apply for pass-thru grants of \$250 each to support creative ideas to provide judicial voter education in your community.

[Click here](#) for the grant application form and project requirements.

## **6. LWV Ohio is hiring!**

LWVO is growing our office staff, to provide you and your League with even better customer service. We are currently accepting applications for

- [a Development Officer](#),
- [a Temporary Summer Office Associate](#), and
- [Summer and Fall Voter Education and Engagement Project Interns](#).

Do you know someone with a passion for civic engagement who is looking to put their talents to work at an Ohio non-profit? Please share these job descriptions with your networks and encourage good candidates to apply. The job descriptions are also on the LWVO website.

## **7. LWVUS Convention Planning**

### **A. Ohio Meet-up at LWVUS Convention**

LWVUS Convention will be held in Dallas on June 6th to 10th, 2014.

Convention is almost here! [Click here](#) for information about Convention registration, hotel information, event schedule, and more. Convention is a wonderful opportunity to help shape the direction of LWVUS for the next two years, attend interesting workshops and, best of all, interact with League members from around the country.

It will also be a chance to interact with Ohio League members and we are planning a social time to meet, strategize and have fun. Please let Carrie Davis ([cdavis@lwvohio.org](mailto:cdavis@lwvohio.org)) know who will be attending from your League so that we can be sure that they receive communications about the meet-up.

### **B. LWVUS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014- 2016**

LWVUS recently released its 2014-2016 Program Recommendations.

[Click here](#)

to read the LWVUS Program Recommendations for 2014-2016.

We wanted to share these with local Leagues very quickly, so that League members will be prepared for Convention - and program planning for next year.

### **C. LWVUS Convention Workbook now available**

LWVUS just posted the Convention Workbook, which includes program recommendations, non-recommended program items, the proposed budget, and more. [Click here](#) for the LWVUS Convention Workbook. (Please

note, you will have to sign into your LWV member account to open the workbook.)

#### **D. LWVUS Proposed PMP for 2014-2016**

And the news we've all been waiting for about LWVUS's plans for PMP... "This proposed budget leaves the per member payment (PMP) at the current rate of \$31 for the first year of the biennium, with an increase to \$32 in the second year."

As a reminder, at LWV Ohio Council, the approved state League budget once again leaves state PMP unchanged for the fourth year in a row. We hope this helps local League treasurers and boards in planning for the year ahead.

### **8. All Member Conference Call**

Our next all-member conference call will be held on **Tuesday, May 6, 12-1 pm.**

**Topic: Human Trafficking.** Human trafficking has become a major crisis in Ohio. Join us for a discussion with Elizabeth Ranade Janis, Ohio's Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator to hear about the latest efforts to raise awareness to combat human trafficking in Ohio.

**CALL-IN NUMBER: [866-740-1260](tel:866-740-1260)**

**PIN NUMBER: 4691505#**

Please RSVP at [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org) to help us plan for the numbers of attendees. Thank you.