



February 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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Events:

1) RSVP Today for Statehouse Day - March 19th - Featuring Ohio's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court!

We are thrilled to announce that our Keynote Speaker is the Honorable Maureen O'Connor, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. In addition to Chief Justice O'Connor, the program includes many of this spring's hottest issues -- the state government budget and tax plan, changes to

education funding, implementation of the federal health care law, and the latest updates on redistricting reform.

Registration is open, and you can opt to attend the entire day or just join us for lunch with Chief Justice O'Connor. For more information or to RSVP, [click here](#).

2) February Regional Meeting Recap

LWVO would like to extend a hearty thank you to everyone who came out to the February regional meetings. An extra special thank you goes out to the five host Leagues - Akron Area, Cuyahoga Area, Greater Dayton Area, Metro Columbus, and Toledo-Lucas County.

We greatly appreciate your feedback on the goals and objectives for LWVO's draft strategic plan, which will be finalized in March. Meeting attendees also learned about opportunities for their League to join the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program offered by LWVO and LWVUS, as well as opportunities for members to become MLD coaches.

3) Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Program Informational Call - Feb. 27 & 28

For those who missed the regional meetings and are interested in learning more about the MLD Program and how your League can benefit from-and participate-in MLD, we will be hosting a MLD informational call on:

- Wed. Feb. 27th at 7pm
- Thur. Feb. 28th at 12 noon
- Phone number 866-740-1260, PIN 4691505#

Also, please [click here](#) to check out the MLD information on the LWVO website.

4) March 5: All-Member Conference Call on Redistricting- Plus an Article Summarizing February's Call on Human Trafficking

-[Click here](#) for a drop-in article summarizing February's call featured state Rep. Teresa Fedor, who provided a compelling update on human trafficking.

- Our next call is Tue. March 5th at 12:00-1:00pm. Ann Henkener will provide an update on redistricting reform, what happened in Nov. & Dec. 2012 and plans going forward.

-Calls occur the first Tuesday of each month. The toll-free call-in number is 866-740-1260 and enter PIN number 4691505#.

5) LWVO Program Planning and Great Lakes Concurrence

Our sincere thanks to everyone for participating in LWVO Program Planning and the concurrence process for Michigan's Great Lakes position. The LWVO board is compiling results now and will include them in the Final Call to Convention that will go out in March.

6) Make Plans to Attend LWVO's 60th Convention on May 4-5: "Energizing Democracy - What Would Alice Do?"

Mark your calendars to join us May 4-5 in Cleveland for our 60th LWVO Convention. Registration rates, how to register, and other event details will be announced in the Final Call to Convention that will go out to League presidents-as well as posted on the LWVO website (www.lwvohio.org) - in late March.

What can Alice Paul, a true leader in the fight for women's and civil rights, teach us as we explore effective ways to influence public policy and provide voter services, recruit and retain members, develop leadership and communicate - all of which are topics we will explore at our 60th State Convention? We are finalizing energizing speakers and informative, timely workshops, and more information will be available soon.

Announcements:

1) LWVO's Annual Campaign & 2013 Fundraising Calendar

Several local League officers have asked to be notified of LWVO's fundraiser mailing calendar in order to plan so that local fundraising efforts are not at the same time. LWV Ohio currently has three appeal letters planned for 2013: our Annual Campaign (formerly Phone-a-thon) in late February, Women's Equality Day around August 26th, and a year-end appeal the first week of December.

2) Membership and Leadership Development (MLD)

Tip of the Month

Got a New Member? - A tip from the Membership and Leadership Development Program

- **Got a new member?** Great! Here's how to make them feel welcome:
 - **Cash the check!** Cash the check as soon as possible. It sounds obvious, but little things like this signal to people that their support is needed and appreciated.
 - **Send a welcome packet.** Thank them for joining the League, send a small token (like a button, a pen, etc.), and let them know when the next meeting is. Let them know who to contact if they'd like to get involved with an upcoming event or work on a specific topic. It doesn't (and shouldn't) be too much information.
- **Orient new members and train new leaders.** Teaching new members and leaders about the League in a fun and welcoming way will help your League create informed, confident leaders from the beginning. Hold an orientation meeting for new members every six months. Give them a brief history of the League, explain how the League functions, and how they can help. Hold trainings for new League leaders about topics that are interesting and will help them one day lead the League, such as a training session on event planning, on running a candidates forum, etc. Don't have the resources for a full-fledged orientation or training? Meet over lunch with interested individuals. Connect new members with a Leaguer who will stay in touch with them during the year and new leaders with a mentor to help teach them the ropes in an area of interest to them.

3) Voting Rights Act (VRA) in U.S. Supreme Court

On February 27th, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case [Shelby County, AL v. Holder](#), which challenges the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act / VRA (the section that requires some jurisdictions to have voting law changes "pre-cleared" by the Justice Department).

As LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara said last week, the outcome of this case could decide the fate of a vitally important issue that is core

to the League's mission. The VRA has been and continues to be a necessary and effective law that helps protect the very foundation of our great democracy - the right to vote and have your vote counted.

LWVUS has set up a webpage "[Get Involved in Supporting the Voting Right Act](#)" - here you will find updated information relating to a February 27th rally at the steps of the Supreme Court and other rallies outside of DC. The website also offers resources for Leagues, including background on the issue, talking points, a Power Point presentation and templates for a press release and a letter to the editor (coming soon).

4) In case you missed it -- from LWVUS

- *New edition of Fundraising 101*

Could your League use more money? Then check out LWVUS's newest edition of "Fundraising 101" - available online at <http://www.lwv.org/content/fundraising-101-%E2%80%93-league-way>.

"Fundraising 101" includes helpful techniques for Membership, Appeals, Fundraising Events, Planned Giving, and Corporation and Foundation Donors.

- *New Resource: Clearinghouse of League Studies and Research*

LWVUS has created a Clearinghouse of LWV Studies and Research, both those completed and those ongoing. The purpose is to share League study documents among some 800 national, state and local Leagues and with the public. Leagues can now save time by not reinventing study materials and by seeing how other Leagues have approached a tough issue. Leagues can also gain inspiration for program planning. You can access other Leagues' studies or submit your League's studies to help other Leagues by going to <https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/>.