



## February 2015 Ohio League Leader Updates

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### 1. Upcoming events - Save the Date!

a. LWVO Statehouse Day is Tuesday, March 31 in Columbus.

[Click here](#) for more info & to register.

b. Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Training is Friday, April 17 & Saturday, April 18 in Columbus - with hotel, meals and materials free of charge to participating MLD Leagues.

o Friday - Saturday - New coaches

o Friday dinner - Saturday - New teams & new members joining existing teams,

o Saturday - all new and returning coaches and teams.

c. LWVO Convention is May 15-17 in Cincinnati. [Click here](#) for more info & to register.

### 2. Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due March 27th.

WHY? Wish your League could spread the workload around more? Wish there were more trained League leaders available to step up? Wish your League could do all it wants to do to be a vibrant part of your community? Your League can make these wishes come true!

WHAT? The Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program - a program proven to be **successful in membership recruitment and retention, leadership development, and sparking renewed energy** in many Leagues!

We invite your League to join the Ohio Leagues already participating in the MLD program! Please [click here](#) to see an overview of the MLD program and the local League application form which outlines specific responsibilities.

Following MLD training, Leagues' MLD teams receive ongoing coaching and support from their LWV Ohio coach.

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TRAINING: Leagues new to the program in 2015-2017 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training, April 17-18, in Columbus with lodging, meals and materials provided by LWVO at no cost to their League except for a registration fee of \$25 for each MLD Team member. Current MLD teams and coaches are invited to join the new teams and coaches for training on April 18 at no cost to their League.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The deadline for applying for the 2015-2017 MLD program is March 27.

FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at [megflack150@gmail.com](mailto:megflack150@gmail.com) or 614-235-5993.

### **3. The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You!**

*Imagine if you joined an outstanding League team that. . .*

- Helps Leagues grow in membership and funding.
- Helps Leagues with support, ideas and guidance.
- Helps League leaders with training and mentoring before they lead.
- Helps Leagues' voice become as strong and powerful as possible!

You can!! **LWVO is now recruiting members to join the phenomenal Ohio coaching team for 2015-2017 so that we can increase the number of Ohio Leagues involved in MLD program.** Each coach acts as a mentor, cheerleader and communicator to two local Leagues-with a total monthly time commitment of approximately eight hours per month working with their local MLD teams and the state coaches, primarily via conference calls.

"It's a lot of fun to help a local League work on their plan for new members and mentoring new leaders, and I get to celebrate with them as they grow. I'm lucky to be an MLD coach and recommend coaching to anyone who enjoys being part of a team." **Marlene Muse, MLD Coach from LWV Cincinnati Area**

"The two MLD teams I coach have accepted the challenge to be intentional with planning and to implement proven tools in order to enhance League membership, leadership and

visibility. Together we benefit League with our caring, sharing and most importantly, with our humor. MLD coaching is a worthwhile effort that delivers measureable improvements and overall benefit for League. I always get more from it than I give." **Pat Simons, MLD Coach from LWV Hudson**

Those joining the MLD coaching team this spring will receive training April 17-18 in Columbus along with their assigned League teams, with hotel and meal expenses covered by LWVO. They will be joined on April 18th by current MLD coaches and current local teams.

An overview of the program, the coaches' role and the application to become an MLD coach (with specific responsibilities outlined) are available on the LWV Ohio website [here](#). For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at [megflack150@gmail.com](mailto:megflack150@gmail.com) or 614-235-5993.

#### **4. Donate today to LWVO/EF's Annual Campaign (formerly Phone-a-thon)**

It's that time again! But this year, we aim to keep our campaign short and sweet. It will begin on March 1st and end March 31st. The State League depends heavily on the support of individual donors to continue our critical work. We have not raised PMP /membership dues in five years, and the only way we can continue to keep dues affordable is with the generous support of our donors large and small throughout the year. Foundation support has been on the decline nationwide and here in Ohio and we depend on YOU, our donors, to keep us strong.

We especially need your help this year on our advocacy, or 'O', side to continue our critical work on redistricting. Please help us pass State Issue #1 on the fall ballot to reform state legislative districting. We have come so far, now we need a concerted effort in the home stretch. And remember, we will also be advocating for a fix on Congressional redistricting. In addition, as the new two-year session of the Ohio Legislature begins, we will be hard at work lobbying on LWVO positions including free, fair and accessible elections.

Our work on the education front continues as well. We want to know what Ohioans expect from our public education system. To that end, we are working with and local Leagues to produce a series of community education forums around the

state in 2015.

Did you know that 3 out of 5 people in Ohio report they don't have enough information to make a good choice when voting for judges? Also this year, we will be launching the next phase of our judicial education project. We are partnering with the Ohio Supreme Court, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the Bliss Institute for Applied Politics.

[Click here](#) to donate today! We greatly appreciate your support at whatever level you are able to give.

## **5. Latest Update on Public Education Forums Project**

Our plans for the education forums continue to evolve. It has become clear that some flexibility in format is necessary, so that each local League can determine how their event should be run. This represents a change from earlier discussions with The Akron Beacon Journal, which hoped for uniform strictly controlled forums across the state conducted by moderators with extensive training. We will keep Doug Oplinger, the Managing Editor of the Akron Beacon Journal, informed to enable press coverage where possible.

The League Office will continue to facilitate information exchanges as Leagues plan forums and seek partners to host them. We would appreciate learning not only about when they are scheduled but also about how they go, so that we can learn from each other. And local Leagues are certainly encouraged to use the [set of questions](#) that we developed with the input of League members, but may, of course, use a different approach if they prefer.

We do think that it will be critical to prepare carefully for these meetings. Both sides on the charter school issue feel strongly and it will be important to take steps to avoid having the audience dominated by one side or the other. Dave Patton, a member of the State Board, is an experienced moderator and he has offered to provide a phone workshop for Leagues planning forums and is also willing, schedule permitting, to serve as a moderator at meetings should a local League desire such support. Please let the office know by March 15th if your League would be interested in a workshop or the services of Dave at your meeting.

## **6. Legislative Interviews**

Back by popular demand! Several Leagues inquired about holding interviews with their legislators at the start of the new

two-year session. For those Leagues who are interested and have not already done so, we encourage you to meet with your local state Representative or Senator. [Click here](#) for the Legislative Interview packet.

## **7. All Member Conference Call**

Our next all-member conference call will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 12-1 pm.

**Topic & Speaker: Gavin DeVore Leonard, State Director of One Ohio Now, will provide an overview of the State Budget proposed by the Governor and under consideration in the Ohio General Assembly.**

One Ohio Now is a coalition of 100 health and human services, labor, and advocacy organizations whose members represent over 1 million Ohioans. The coalition's goal is to shift public understanding about the need for better health and human services, and the revenue to pay for those services. They do so through lobbying, public education, social and traditional media, candidate training and more on budget and tax policy.

**CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260**

**PIN NUMBER: 4691505#**

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

The recording of the all-member call will be available online [here](#) 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. Thank you.

## **8. LWVO Lobby Lunch now available statewide**

Do you want to hear what is happening in the Statehouse? Is there a League position or issue that you're passionate about? Are you interested in advocacy? Then join our Lobby Corps for twice monthly discussions of what is happening at the Statehouse. We meet for Lobby Lunch on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 12 noon. We recently started meeting by phone in order to include League activists from outside of Central Ohio. Please contact Carrie at [cdavis@lwvohio.org](mailto:cdavis@lwvohio.org) or 614-469-1505 to be added to the email list for call announcements.

## **9. From LWVUS: Timeline for Money in Politics Review and Update and Constitutional Amendment Study**

At the January Board meeting, the LWVUS Board approved [an overall timeline for the Money in Politics Review and Update](#) and the Constitutional Amendment Study. All consensus reports from local and state Leagues will be due on February 1, 2016.

There is much you can already be doing. Be sure to check the [Money and Politics Review page](#) and the [Constitutional Amendment Study page](#) for regularly updated information and materials. Each study will continue to post issue papers and sources from now until early October, when the consensus questions will be posted.

## **10. 2015 LWVUS Legislative Priorities**

The LWVUS Board adopted the following issues as LWVUS legislative priorities for 2015:

- First Tier: Voting Rights and Election Administration; Money in Politics
- Second Tier: Climate and Environmental Protection; Immigration; Health Care, including Reproductive Choice

## **11. From LWVUS's Leaders Update: Interpreting the Meeting Basic Human Needs Position**

The LWVUS Board discussed the [Meeting Basic Human Needs Position](#) in relation to income inequality. The Board determined that the position can be used in communities in "working toward an income that meets basic human needs." The committee agreed that specific issues in relation to a "living wage" and income levels should be decided by Leagues working in their communities. The Board also agreed to call attention to the Meeting Basic Human Needs Position with Leagues since it contains many elements that address current needs in communities across the country.