

Thank you to all the League members from across Ohio who attended state Convention! And a special thanks to the many League volunteers who made the event a success!

The 62nd League of Women Voters Ohio Convention was held May 5-7, 2017, at the Sheraton Suites in Akron-Cuyahoga Falls. Attendance was the highest of any Convention in years, including many new faces. Delegates and guests enjoyed a variety of speakers, workshops, caucuses and tables of interest. Feel free to share your favorite part of convention or your photos by emailing [lwvinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvinfo@lwvohio.org), and we will share some of them on our website and in the next Voter.

[Click here](#) to view the Convention Program and Workbook.

[Click here](#) to view photos from Convention.

## **A. Report on Convention Business**

### **1. Board Elections**

Thank you to our outgoing 2015-2017 state board members

LWVO/EF extends our sincere thanks to our outgoing 2015-2017 board members for their service and dedication -- Marlene Muse, Kris Vessey and Janet Kershaw.

Welcome to our new 2017-2019 state board members

LWVO/EF welcomes our new 2017-2019 state board members – Co-presidents Alison Ricker and Mary Kirtz Van Nortwick, Vice-presidents Andrea Cobb and Debbie Schmieding, Treasurer Gail Pytel, Secretary Iris Meltzer, and Board Members Alfreda Brown, Janet Chittock, Ana Crawford, Dorothy Kane, Marti (Martha) Kleinfelter, Lee McLaird, Deb Peluso and Alice Schneider. [Click here](#) to read biographies of our new board members on pages 27-29 of the convention workbook.

### **2. Bylaws changes**

The convention approved changing “Member-at-Large Units” to “At-Large Units,” and replacing every occurrence of MAL with ALU or At-Large Member(s), depending on the context of the phrasing. The convention also approved an amendment to clarify without changing the makeup of the LWVO Board nominating committee. [Click here](#) to see the Bylaws changes from pages 65-71 of the convention workbook.

### **3. Budget & PMP**

The LWVO/EF budget for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 has been approved. [Click here](#) to read more about the approved budget on pages 30-40 of the convention workbook.

The Convention approved state PMP to remain at \$25 per member for the next fiscal years 2017-2019. This continues the PMP freeze for seven years. LWVO will also continue to offer a 5% discount for early payment of dues (by September 30).

### **4. Program – 2017-2019 LWVO Positions & Priorities**

a. All current LWVO positions have been retained, including the new Primary Elections Systems position. [Click here](#) to read 2017-2019 LWVO positions on pages 41-57 of the convention workbook.

b. Edits made to the LWVO Juvenile Justice Position – The LWV Akron Area moved that LWVO update the Juvenile Justice position related to non-discrimination. The motion was approved by the Convention, and the new adopted position now states: “The LWV of Ohio supports the right of juveniles

to unbiased treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, or socio-economic status.”

c. Adopted new Charter School position by concurrence - Convention delegates approved adoption by concurrence with the Florida position on Charter Schools, amended to match Ohio regulations. [Click here](#) to read the full concurrence on pages 60-61 of the convention workbook.

d. Approved new study on Health Services - LWV Kent moved that LWVO adopt a new study on population health and health services that will address issues of public health and health disparities, as well as distribution of resources for health care. A new study committee is being formed and additional details will be forthcoming. Members interested in joining or contributing to the study committee are welcome to contact the state League office.

## 5. LWVO Board Reports

a. Treasurer’s report – Treasurer Janet Kershaw discussed the LWVO budget and accounts. View the budget on pages 30-40 of the convention workbook [here](#).

b. Development Committee report - The LWVO Annual Campaign met its goal, and the Inspire Leadership Fund campaign is making great progress toward preparing LWVO for its next century. Learn more about Inspire [here](#).

c. Membership Committee report – [Click here](#) to read more about the new At-Large Unit procedures and CRM pilot project on pages 75-76 of the convention workbook.

## 6. Action resolutions

The convention approved action resolutions relating to the [Federal Communications Commission’s promulgation of new regulations on Net Neutrality](#), [funding for public transportation systems](#), [oversight of charter schools](#), [attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act](#), [a moratorium on executions](#), and [exempting people with severe mental illnesses from the death penalty](#). Click each resolution for more information about it.

## B. Speakers & Workshops

### 1. Lunch & Dinner speakers

LWVO welcomed Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) as a Convention guest, and we were glad to hear from her as our Saturday Luncheon presenter. We were also honored to have Barbara A. Sykes, chief executive officer of the Ohio AARP and former state legislator, as our Saturday Dinner Banquet speaker.

### 2. Workshops

- From Non-Discrimination to Inclusion: One League’s Journey presented by Iris Meltzer and Dr. Alfreda Brown – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- Citizen’s Climate Lobby: Activating Ordinary Citizens for Climate Solutions presented by John Sabin – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- Fact or Fake? News Literacy in the Post-Truth Era presented by Jan Leach – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- So You’re Thinking About Running for Office presented by Kristen Olmi – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.

- Common Sense and Climate Change Mitigation presented by Sean Hayes – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- Engaging New Members presented by Lisa Givan and Deb Peluso – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- The Civility Project presented by Doug Oplinger – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.
- Where Have All the Voters Gone? presented by Bill Muse – [Click here](#) to read about the workshop.

### **3. Fair Districts for Congress Too training center**

Carrie Davis, executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio offered a speakers training, petition circulator training and a Q&A for League leaders at the convention. Convention attendees also had the opportunity to sign the Fair Districts petitions for the 1,000 signatures needed to refile with the Attorney General, which helped [the campaign collect over 3,000 signatures from more than 30 counties in just 4 days to refile on May 10](#).

### **C. Additional materials**

1. NEW LWV Engagement Toolkit – [Click here](#) to download a copy of the toolkit.
2. NEW [Fair Districts tote bags & decals](#) available for a donation.