



January 2015

Ohio League Leader Updates

Contents

1. First Call to 2015 LWVO Convention: May 15-17 in Cincinnati, OH
2. Statehouse Day is Tuesday, March 31st
3. LWVO supports Redistricting Reform Ballot Issue
4. Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due March 27th.
5. The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You!

1. First Call to 2015 LWVO Convention: May 15-17 in Cincinnati, OH

The Cincinnati Area League and the Board of LWV Ohio invite you to attend [LWVO State Convention](#).

"1920 to 2015: Celebrating 95 years of Empowering Voters and Better Government."

The Convention will be held at Hyatt Regency Cincinnati, 151 West Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Online registration is open. Take advantage of the Early Bird Discount if you register before April 15. [Click here](#) to register today!

Convention attendees are requested to make their own hotel room reservations. [Click here](#) to make a hotel reservation and receive our discounted room rate of \$139. The cut-off for the discounted rate is Wednesday, April 15.

Watch your email for additional Convention announcements.

2. Statehouse Day is Tuesday, March 31st

When: Tuesday, March 31, 2015, 9:30 am - 4:00 pm -- with registration beginning at 8:30 am.

Where: Statehouse Day will take place across from the Statehouse in the Riffe Building at 77 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43215. The luncheon, featuring our keynote speaker, Erin O'Brien, PhD, will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. The title of her talk is "Turning Empty into Half Full: Why States Adopt Restrictive Voter Access Policies and the Promising State-level Reforms that Increase Turnout."

Dr. Erin O'Brien is Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science at University of Massachusetts Boston as well as co-director of the Boston Chapter of the Scholar Strategy Network. Her research and teaching interests

6.
Happy 95th
Anniversary!

7.
Reminder: Update Your
Membership Roster with
LWVUS by January 31st!

8.
LWVO is looking for
Volunteer Lobbyists

9.
Join LWVO Lobby
Lunch Discussions by
Phone!

10.
All Member Conference
Call

focus on voting access policymaking in the United States, the politics of poverty and social welfare policy, and gender in political participation and representation.

You are welcome to join us for the entire day, a half day, or just for lunch. Meetings with legislators will be scheduled throughout the day upon request.

Registration is the same price as last year - \$40 for members, \$45 for non-members, and \$25 for students. Online registration is open. [Click here](#) to register.

Sponsorship opportunities are available! [Click here](#) to learn more. Please contact the LWVO office at 614-469-1505, if you, your organization, or your businesses are interested in sponsoring this event.

Watch your email for future announcements about our exciting line-up of speakers.

3. LWVO supports Redistricting Reform Ballot Issue

At its January meeting, the LWVO board discussed the redistricting reform measure (HJR12) that was passed by the legislature in December. The LWVO Board voted to support the redistricting reform proposal that will be on the November 2015 ballot as Issue 1.

The proposal meets many of the criteria in the LWVO position:

- [LWVO's position on redistricting calls for a bi-partisan redistricting board.](#) The proposal calls for a redistricting commission made up of the Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State and 2 majority party appointees and 2 minority party appointees. There must be bi-partisan approval of any plan that is to last for the entire decade. This is a big step forward because not only is the commission bi-partisan, but there is a requirement that both parties approve the maps.
- [LWVO's position encourages citizen participation.](#) The proposal calls for 3 public hearings around the state to seek input after the commission selects proposed maps and before it makes final selections. It also requires that all meetings be open to the public and that they be broadcast electronically in a medium readily accessible by the general public.
- [LWVO's position calls for districts to be compact and follow local political boundaries as much as possible.](#) The proposal strictly requires districts to be within a single county or to be made up of people in counties next to each other. If that isn't possible, the commission must respect municipal, township and ward boundaries. This should produce districts that make more sense to voters who are already familiar with

the local political boundaries.

There is bi-partisan support for this proposal. The League is looking forward to working with traditional coalition partners, as well as other supporters of the ballot issue, in educating voters about the way this proposal could give us representatives who better reflect voters' political values.

It should be noted that Issue 1 only addresses how districts are drawn for the Ohio Legislature, not Congress. The League will continue to work for Congressional redistricting.

4. 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.

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 or 614-235-5993.

5. 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 measurable 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 or 614-235-5993.

6. Happy 95th Anniversary!

Don't we look fabulous at age 95? February 14 will be the national League's 95th anniversary. On this day in 1920, the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt during National American Woman Suffrage Association convention. Six months later the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. Let's take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, celebrate what we have achieved as an organization, and plan our goals for the

future.

7. Reminder: Update Your Membership Roster with LWVUS by January 31!

In order to ensure an accurate member count for your League, please update and check your membership roster with LWVUS. Your member count will freeze on January 31, 2015 and it determines the amount your League must pay in PMP for FY2015-16 and LWVO Convention delegate representation in 2015. To update your League's member count, you must update your roster online - including the expiration date and status of each member record. If you have any questions or need help, please email us at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

8. LWVO is looking for Volunteer Lobbyists

Do you have a subject you are passionate about - Women's Issues, Clean Water, Solid Waste, State Finance, Water, etc.? Do you wish the State League were more active on that issue? As you know, LWVO has many positions, but in truth our voice is heard on only a few. Which positions we learn more about and lobby for depends partially on what is going on in the legislature and what the Board has identified as priorities. But it also depends greatly on whether we have volunteer lobbyists. We need more members who are passionate about an issue and who are willing to learn more, share that information with others, and find out what is going on in the legislature. Members could also prepare testimony for a bill being heard in committee.

If this sounds intimidating to you, keep in mind that almost all of our volunteer lobbyists had no background lobbying when they first got involved. We have members who will walk you through the steps and you can put your toe in gently not taking on more than you are comfortable with. If you care about an issue and would like to explore getting more involved, please drop an email to the office at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org.

9. Join LWVO Lobby Lunch Discussions by Phone!

Twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, LWVO's lobbyists meet over the lunch hour to discuss what is happening in the Statehouse and League lobbying opportunities. The group has recently been discussing how to get more Leaguers involved in these Lobby Lunches.

As a way to make it easier for more members to participate, LWVO will start offering a call-in option, so that members interested in taking a more active role in LWVO advocacy and lobbying can join our bimonthly meetings from anywhere in the state. Please contact Carrie Davis at cdavis@lwvohio.org or 614-469-1505 if you are interested in being added to the LWVO Lobby Lunch group.

10. All Member Conference Call

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

Topic: There are a lot of exciting new developments in LWVO's work to provide Judicial Voter Information and to pursue reforms to better protect our state courts from outside influences. Please plan to join LWVO President Nancy Brown and Executive Director Carrie Davis for an update on recent polling, the new online judicial voter guide that will launch in late 2015, opportunities for reform, and what this means for League's work.

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260

PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

Please RSVP at lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org to help us plan for the numbers of attendees.

The recording of the all-member call will be available 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.