January 2016
Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. 2016 Primary Election Voters' Guide Information Packet Now Available

The Voters' Guide Information Packet for the March 15 Ohio Primary Election is now available. It includes suggested questions for candidates and district assignments. Please share this information with all individuals in your League working on voter service. Click here for the packet. It is also available, in both Word and PDF formats, under the Member Area of the state League website. The deadline to submit the candidate information is **February 1, 2016**. Please contact the state League office at 614-469-1505, if you have any questions. Reminder: no local League should contact judicial candidates to solicit information for a voter guide; that information will be made available in judicialvotescount.org.

2. VOTE411 Training Webinars - Reminder from the LWVUS

Are you looking for an in depth training on how to use VOTE411 to provide online voters' guides in your community? LWVEF is providing webinars that will show you the basics and answer your questions about this voter education tool. This training is great for anyone interested in using VOTE411, including current VOTE411 participants; however, it is geared towards those who know very little about the program and are interested in learning more. The webinars will take place on:

Wednesday, January 27th at 2pm ET/11am PT
Wednesday, February 17th at 3pm ET/ 12pm PT

You can register for both webinars by using this link. Choose the date you prefer in the drop down menu at the top and fill out the form. You will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar once you complete the form. If you have any questions about the webinars, or about VOTE411, please contact Megan Brown atmbrown@lwv.org.

3. Pass-Thru Grants Available - "Women's Voices: Preparing the Next Gen of Women Leaders"

9. Congressional Redistricting Reform Campaign Update

10. Advocacy and Legislative Update

11. February All - Member Call

LWV Ohio is offering pass thru grants of funding provided by The Women's Fund of Central Ohio to local Leagues for "Women's Voices: Preparing the Next Gen of Women Leaders". By creating ongoing relationships between women leaders in their communities and high school girls, local Leagues can encourage youth civic engagement. The primary goals of this project are to create mentoring opportunities by connecting women political leaders who have served in public office or other civic capacity in workshops. The project must occur in calendar year 2016, but can take place in either spring or fall semester. The projects will require community launch events, voter registration efforts, program evaluations. Please check your emails regularly for more information on the application process and deadline.

4. Program Planning Webinar Posted - From the LWVUS

Before your League conducts its program planning meetings, you may want to listen to the Program Planning 2016 webinar which is now posted in the LWVUS Webinar Library. The Guide to LWVUS Program Planning 2016-2018 and Programming Planning Response form are now available for state and local Leagues and ILOs. These materials provide information about the program planning process, report on our achievements in Making Democracy Work® in 2014-2016 and present the LWVUS proposal for education and action in the next biennium. For questions or further information, contact Program Outreach Chair Barbara Zia atProgPlan@lwv.org.

Timeline for 2016-2018 LWVUS Program Planning

* December 2015 - Program Planning materials will be available online.
* January 2016 - Program planning webinar
* March 1, 2016 - Deadline for submission of online response forms. No response forms will be accepted by other means.
* April 2016 - LWVUS Board will develop a Proposed Program for 2016-2018 that reflects input from Leagues.
* June 2016 - Convention delegates will adopt 2016-2018 LWVUS program after debate and discussion, including any not-recommended items granted consideration by convention and adopted by a majority vote of the delegates.

5. 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, 2016** and it determines the amount your League must pay in PMP for FY2016-17 and LWVUS Convention delegate representation in 2016. To update your League's member count, you must update your roster online - including the expiration date and status of each member record. As the database is new to everyone, we encourage you to get into the system as soon as possible. Once you set up your password, you will have full access to update your League's

membership information. LWVUS has lots of instructional materials to assist with the transition: written instructions, YouTube channel with clips. Please email LWVUS at RosterSupport@lwv.org with any questions!

6. Is Your League Looking for New Members and Leaders? Join the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Program! Applications due April 15, 2016.

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 MLD Program is 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 2016 will send their MLD teams to a two-day training, May 20-21, 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.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: We encourage you to communicate with your board as soon as possible. The 2016 application deadline for Leagues new to the MLD program is **April 15**.

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

7. The Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team Wants You! Applications due April 15.

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 2016-18 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

New and current coaches of the MLD coaching team will receive training May 20-21 in Columbus along with their assigned League teams. Hotel and meal expenses will be covered by LWVO.

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. Applications are due by April 15.

For questions or further information, please contact Meg Flack, LWV Ohio's MLD Coordinator at megflack150@gmail.com or 614-235-5993.

8. Save the date! Statehouse Day will be Tuesday, April 26!

Mark your calendar for this year's Statehouse Day, **Tuesday April 26**. The location will be the Sheraton on Capitol Square. Registration details to come.

9. Congressional Redistricting Reform Campaign Update

The Congressional redistricting reform campaign is in full swing, with the Fair Districts Coalition moving forward and building on the success of Issue 1. When the group met immediately after the election win, we decided to spend the short time over the holidays doing the outreach, research and building behind the scenes that is necessary to launch an effective campaign early this year.

As part of the Coalition, the state League has begun outreach to key stakeholders to get them involved, so that we have a strong bipartisan base of support. This effort was bolstered by several prominent Ohio officials coming out in support and by many strong editorials in media throughout the state. We drafted a robust campaign plan to present to potential funders. Lastly, we have a group that has researched and prepared draft language, which has likewise been vetted and tested.

Behind the scenes planning is never headline news, but it is critical to success. February will likely be a transition month, in which we shift to more visible action. Please take a look at the brand-new "Fair Districts = Fair Elections" website, and stay tuned for news on things you can do to support Congressional redistricting reform.

10. Advocacy and Legislative Update

Although the Ohio General Assembly came back into session January 20, there have been no updates to its legislative agenda.

11. February All Member Conference Call

Our next all-member conference call will be on **Tuesday, February 2, 12-1 pm.** The call will focus on how primary candidates decide the general election. As the first winner-take-all state, Ohio may play a key role!

CALL-IN NUMBER: 866-740-1260
PIN NUMBER: 4691505#

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.