



July 2013 Ohio League Leader Updates

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1. Come to August regional meetings!

Join us for regional meetings across the state in August. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Dates & Locations: All meetings are 10:00am to 12:30pm.

Saturday, August 10th, 2013

- [Northwest Meeting-Bowling Green](#)

Saturday, August 17th, 2013

- [Northeast Meeting-Shaker Heights](#)
- [Central and Southeast Meeting-Columbus](#)

Saturday, August 24th, 2013

- [Southwest Meeting-Cincinnati](#)
- [Northeast Meeting-Warren](#)

Click on the meeting links above for more information on the two topics we will discuss at regional meetings:

- New! Voter Education: Judicial Elections
- League Leadership & How League Works

2. Save the date - August all-member conference call

Join us for our monthly LWVO all-member conference call held on the first Tuesday of every month at 12 noon.

Our August call will focus on some of the things **local Leagues do best**. Please call in to hear from a few of your League colleagues as they share success stories such as innovative ideas for events, projects, and membership growth.

Repairing the Voting Rights Act
b. ACTION ALERT: Immigration Debate Heads to the U.S. House
c. 2012-2014 Impact on Issues is Now Available

7.
Report from LWVUS Council Meeting

August All-Member Call

Topic: Local League Success Stories

When: Tuesday, August 6th, 12pm-1pm

Call: 866-740-1260, PIN 4691505#

3. Membership Tip of the Month

Easy, Little Things to Promote League Growth - from LWV Ohio's Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Coaching Team

League boards and members can do some easy, little things to promote membership and leadership growth in their League. *These simple "best practices" will help recruit new members, retain current members, develop new leaders, and engage your board and members in this organizational growth effort.* Try some (or all!) of these easy tactics:

- Include a membership message in your e-mail electronic signature. It's easy to add and reaches everyone you e-mail without any effort. For example: *The League of Women Voters helps make democracy work. Join us today!*
- Add a membership message to the bottom of the official League letterhead and stationary.
- Carry a membership brochure with you- and be prepared to ASK someone to join.
- Designate members to be membership ambassadors or greeters at the next League event. Their role will be to make people (new or potential members) feel welcome.
- Have a sign-in sheet at all events and activities for interested attendees and be sure to follow up with them after the event.
- Provide "leave behind" LWV informational brochures or post cards at locations with high target demographic or League appeal -- e.g., city or county government offices, neighborhood doctors' office, real estate offices (for new neighbors), faculty lounges at the local elementary, middle and high schools.

And if your League is not already an MLD League, consider joining the LWV Ohio MLD program in time for the next training in the spring of 2014. League applications for 2014-2015 will be accepted throughout the year. For more

information about MLD, [click here](#).

4. Fundraising Tip of the Month - Befriending Donors

The philanthropy website GuideStar had a wonderful interview recently with Thomas Wolf, author of *How to Connect with Donors and Double the Money You Raise*. In this interview, Mr. Wolf talks about how to befriend donors, which has helpful tips for Leagues large and small.

[Click here](#) to read the interview.

5. Notes for Voter Service Chairs

a. Update on Ballot Issues for 2013 and 2014

There are currently no certified ballot issues for the November 2013 election. The deadline for initiative petitions to be filed for the November 2013 ballot was July 3, 2013, which has already passed with no filings for this year. The deadline for the General Assembly to place issues on the ballot is August 7, 2013. The legislature is on recess for the summer and is not expected to place any issues on this year's ballot.

While it appears there will not be any statewide ballot issues on the November 2013 ballot, there is the possibility of several issues on the November 2014 ballot. Several issue campaigns are currently circulating petitions for next year (visit the Secretary of State's website for a list of petitions in circulation - <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/LegnAndBallotIssues/BallotBoard.aspx>). In addition, the Constitutional Modernization Commission may propose amendments, which could be placed on the ballot by the General Assembly.

b. National Voter Registration day is September 24

The second annual National Voter Registration Day will be held this year on September 24th.

Our friends at Nonprofit Votes will host a free webinar on Thursday, August 1st at 2:00pm about how to maximize your participation in National Voter Registration Day.

Presenters include Emily Alsleben, who manages the field operations of National Voter Registration Day, and Maggie Duncan, Elections Program Manager for LWVUS.

For more information or to register for the webinar, click here:
<https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/registrations/new?cid=sf5r0zybrac1>

6. Summer advocacy news

a. Taking the First Step Toward Repairing the Voting Rights Act

In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a key provision of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) that required certain states to get voting changes pre-cleared by the federal government. LWVUS and its allies in the voting rights community are pushing Congress to repair the VRA. Read the latest in this blog post from LWVUS:

<http://www.lwv.org/blog/taking-first-step-toward-repairing-voting-rights-act>

b. ACTION ALERT: Immigration Debate Heads to the U.S. House

After vigorous argument from both sides of the aisle on a path to citizenship for current immigrants, border security and other contentious issues the debate over comprehensive immigration reform now moves to the U.S. House. [Tell your Representative you support comprehensive immigration reform.](#)

c. 2012-2014 Impact on Issues is Now Available

The new edition of Impact on Issues, the booklet that describes LWVUS positions and advocacy on those issue positions, is now available [for purchase, viewing or downloading online](#). The latest edition of Impact on Issues includes three new LWVUS positions: Federal Role in Public Education, Privatization, and Sentencing Policy. As a reminder, there is now [an online form](#) on the LWVUS website for state and local Leagues wishing to take action using LWVUS positions. The form can be found on the [Forms, Tool & Applications](#) page of the Advocacy section of the Members area of the League's website.

7. Report from LWVUS Council Meeting

In June, LWVUS held its Council meeting in Washington, DC. Two League members from each state attended Council to hear updates on what is going on with LWVUS, share success stories with other Leagues and hear speakers on a myriad of topics.

- LWVUS announced that it is working on a new database designed to take administrative burdens away from state and local Leagues. Think of what it could mean if your League did not have to handle membership renewals, and if there were opportunities for cooperative marketing and fundraising!
- One of the most engaging speakers at Council was Cincinnati's own Melissa Currence, Co-Chair of the Young People's Task Force, speaking about how to engage the next generation. It turns out the Millennial generation wants the world to be fast, flexible, focused and fun.
- Leagues were encouraged to take advantage of the forums available on the LWVUS website on topics that may be of interest to our members. Click here for more info: <http://www.lwv.org/content/getting-started-forums>